

■ Interview — Rev. Charles Koen ■ Chicago banks foreclose schools ■ No tax on oil profits ■ Election nears in Zimbabwe

KEEP STRONG

February, 1980

Voices of Chicago's Communities

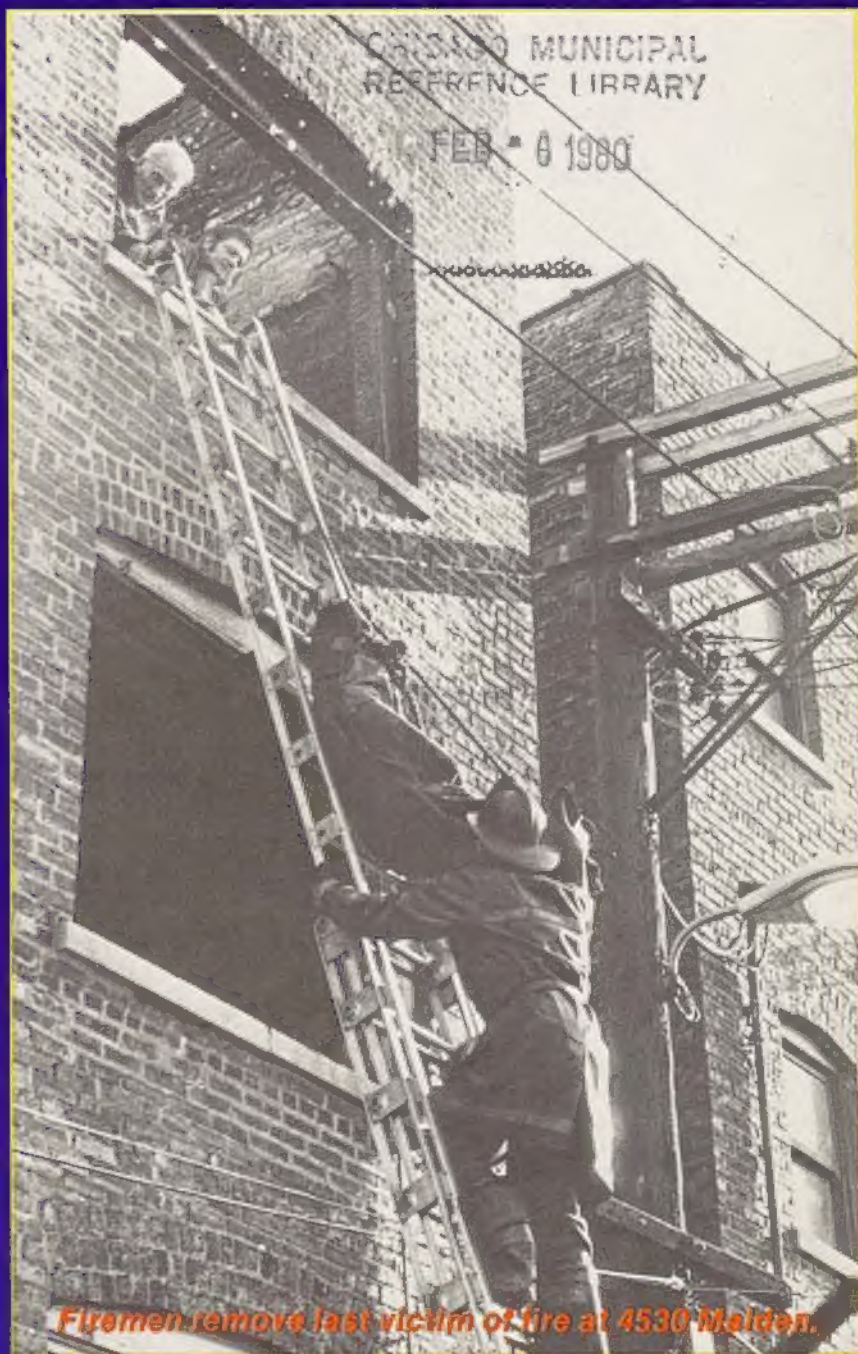
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MURDER BY FIRE!

The Charlie Roberts Gang

In less than three years they burned a dozen buildings, killing 16 people. Arson profiteers exposed by Keep Strong, the BGA and ABC-TV's "20/20".

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Firemen remove last victim of fire at 4530 Malden.

THIS MONTH IN



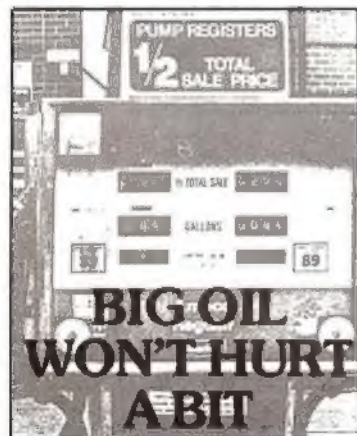
5 For 10 years Charlie Roberts and his partners ran through Uptown buying and burning buildings and collecting insurance. The courts can't stop them and the city doesn't want to.



33 Chicago's largest banks forced the school board into a cash crisis last fall, then grabbed control of the Board for the next thirty years.



48 Private developers stand to make millions converting low income housing into co-ops. Ralph Scott looks at a case in Hyde Park and the impact it could have on families all over Chicago.



58 The much debated 'Windfall Profits Tax' passed through Congress in December. Don't be fooled, it's a tax on oil, not profits and everybody who uses oil will pay the tax.



64 Popular armed struggle in Zimbabwe has forced the Rhodesian government to disband and invite guerrilla forces to participate in a national election this month.



75 Consumer Notebook becomes a regular this month, comparing 'No Frills', 'Generic' and 'House Brand' prices from major chainstores around the city.

KEEP STRONG...

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From The Editor

Friends:

This month's cover story should get a lot of play. ABC will broadcast the story in February 1 or 8 on the "20-20" show. But it's five years too late. In 1974 when Roberts and cohorts were collecting rents with guns and dobermans and kicking old men down the steps at the Ellis Hotel, nobody wanted to hear about it. They were renting apartments without lights, water, heat or windows. And you could lose your kitchen door if your rent was late. It took three or four big fires and 16 murders before anyone started to talk about stopping them.

The interview with Reverend Koen (p. 22) should excite many. He is a man with struggle in his heart and stomach. The pictorial essay that follows the interview should clarify his point of view. The pictures of that historic period have never been grouped together similarly as far as we know.

We want you to read the analysis on the banks and the Board of Education. (Page 33). How and why they took control of the schools is as important, we think, as what they will do to dismantle public education in the next three to five years.

Eugene Feldman's contribution this month (page 71) is a special for Black History Month — February. The month is dedicated to remember the many contributions of Black people to American history.

To the comrades struggling in Zimbabwe (page 64), we wish you success in the elections this month.

Marc Zalkin

Cover photo by Lil Tus.

EDITORIAL

"IT'S THEM — OR US"

The bankers, the men from Continental and First Chicago banks, in particular, rolled their sleeves up and dug into the heart of the city last month.

They snatched control of 40.5 percent of the city's taxes for the next 30 years, awarded themselves \$200 million in interest payments over the next 10 years, and ordered the school budget cut by \$220 million in the next 20 months.

The Pritzker family has a seat on the new School Finance Authority. They also have a company that sells textbooks to the public schools, and a new contract to manage Cook County Hospital. They have a seat on the city's Economic Development Commission (the city's arm to promote business growth) and a \$16 million federal grant, for a development at Halsted and Division, to go along with the seat.

The Pritzkers have a lot to say about what happens in Chicago. It's just another piece of the business. Business is about making money. If the schools and the County Hospital don't make money, they'll cut them until they do. If they do make money, then we're going to suffer.

There's no way to get around it. Some people have to control the city. Two percent (see box on page 38 for what the Pritzkers own) are going to run it to suit their needs. And 98 percent are going to run it suitable to their needs.

Make no mistake, health care, education, jobs and housing are under the knife in this city for every family with an income under \$50,000 a year.

In neighborhoods across Chicago, from Roseland to Kenwood-Oakland, to Westtown to Uptown and Albany Park, 100 different communities, people are beginning to see the whole knife, not just the edge of the blade, coming.

The power that threw Bilandic out of office a year ago could easily unseat half the city council along with the mayor next time.

The Black and Latino communities, organized in 1,000 different structures and tied to the movement for self-determination around the world, have begun to draw the line. Before long, trade unionists, losing shops by the dozens and jobs by the thousands, to remote areas from Malaysia to Texas, will rally behind our fight for control of the city.

Over the next few years the line will become a trench as the fight for stable communities becomes a full blown people's movement.

There are several hundred thousand poor and working White people around Chicago. They have felt the sharpness of the blade, but until now have not been able to see the knife or the hand that holds it. They are no better off in income or security than the Black and Latino people.

If they bite the bullet of racism long enough to join the non-White 60 percent, a powerful coalition will emerge in the middle of Chicago.

A coalition like that would put Pritzker and Co. out of business around here and turn the city right side up.

Then at least, we'd have schools that teach our children and hospitals that heal them. □

News and Letters From Our Readers

Louisiana State Penitentiary: I Will Pass On The Torch

Please send me a copy of the December issue on Comrade Fred Hampton and Comrade Mark Clark, I'll appreciate a copy of that issue if ya'll funds will allow you all to send it to me free of charge, I'll assure you this, that I will pass on the torch including the issue on Comrade Fred and Mark to Brothers who are interested in such news.

Chimurenga/Revolution,
Comrade, Albert "Chui" Clark
79909 CCR. D-Tier Cage-5
Louisiana State Penitentiary
Angola, Louisiana 70712

"Fred Hampton Was A Decade Ahead Of Many Of Us."

To the Editors & Readers of KEEP STRONG:

Thank you for my subscription to KEEP STRONG Magazine. My first December issue article on a collective dedication on Fred Hampton was read by more than half of the Stateville Prisoners on my Prison Tier.

We salute KEEP STRONG for such a fine presentation of Brother Fred Hampton. Many of the other prisoners, as well as myself, found that the dedication was truly a poignant experience. Many of us knew the Brother prior to our incarceration. We know that Fred Hampton

was a decade ahead of many of us. If we work collectively towards what Fred gave his life for, we will be in tune with the time. Freedom for all Black, poor and oppressed people.

In Struggle,
Barney Lonzo
P.O. Box 112 Stateville
Joliet, Ill. 60434

The V.A. Appreciates KEEP STRONG

Dear KEEP STRONG:

We wish to thank you for the supply of September issues of the KEEP STRONG magazines that you donated to VA Lakeside Medical Center on September 10, 1979.

Good reading matter is great for the morale of the patients, as it helps them pass the long hours in the hospital more pleasantly.

The staff joins me in expressing our appreciation for your interest in our hospitalized Veterans.

Sincerely,
M.J. Risky
Chief, Voluntary Service

Stateville Reader: Community And Youth Need To Work Together

Dear KEEP STRONG Magazine,

My name is Tony Slavoff, and I am incarcerated at Stateville Correctional Center doing a term of five to ten years for attempted murder. I will be going to the parole

board in another six months from now.

I am interested in what's been happening around the Uptown area concerning the neighborhood rehabilitation programs within the community and how much a part of it is being constructed from the neighborhood youth. If the community with its youth, works together to gain something constructive, it would benefit everyone.

One of the main problems in Uptown is street gangs. I believe that these same street gangs can play a great part in the community by getting involved with its programs.

I myself am a member of the Almighty Latin King Nation. I'm with the Montrose and Paulina Chapter. I myself was a well-known gang-banger on the northside when I was last out there. I had wanted to be a tuff dude with a down reputation at that time. But since I was last out there I've been through some very good changes. My attitude has changed toward gang banging. I now realize gang banging is not worth the problems it brings and that there is nothing constructive in it. They way I feel now is that I'd like to help young people get their shit together instead of them going through some of the bull shit I went through. It all can be avoided.

While being down here I kept busy by attending Adult Education classes in which I gained my G.E.D. diploma. I also will have my welding diploma together before I make parole board. I've been lifting weights for the longest. I'm on the Stateville team. I plan on competing out there in the future. I'm into other sports also.

I came in here when I was 17 years old and I'm 20½ years old right now. I've been through changes but they are good ones. I

don't mean to write my future in this letter to you. But what I would like to say is that I want to be involved with the programs and give what assistance I can and get some of my people involved with me. I got no gang bang hang-ups. I know different people from different gangs and I believe that something can be arranged to have them work towards the same goals. I got some good ideas for a few youth programs that I would like to see happening in the Uptown and Ravenswood communities for the young people. I would like information on the programs that are happening for young people in Uptown—jobs, sports, etc. I would like a free subscription to your magazine. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Tony Slavoff
King Sly

Brother, Glad to hear from you. We would like very much to do an article for the magazine on the Stateville weightlifting team. I hope we can work together on this because many people outside the penal system would like to know about programs like that. Ed.

Menard Inmate Wants Subscription To KEEP STRONG

Hi People,

Just ran across an issue of your KEEP STRONG magazine (Nov.)

First thought it was another of those "Blind The People, Political Books of Lies!" The first few pages changed my mind fast enough! Now here is something finally to enlighten those people that will take the time to read it and see that there are those that care and are slowly

lifting the fog that surrounded us for so long.

At the present I am a prisoner at the M.S.U. Complex of the Menard prison. I reside in Chicago and have lived there all my life. I would like to receive your magazine if it is still given to those behind bars. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely yours,
Donald R. Frustive
C-10605, Box 711
Menard, Ill. 62259

Tenants' Victory Can Teach Others

Dear Editor:

I received your letter and magazines today. Our Tenants Association has basically won the rent strike we've been on since May, and perhaps a story about the Housing Court/Chicago Code Inspectors and eventual victory would be of interest to your readers.

I personally feel that unless other tenants realize from our example that they, too, can successfully battle and win concessions from their landlords, our victory will not be very significant. As you said in your letter, this past decade was one of quiet organizing in neighborhoods. But the news has to be spread. I hope your publication will do it.

Nancy Cleveland
President, Tenants Association
5400 S. Harper

Correction

In the December-January issue of KEEP STRONG, the photos on page 66 of Slim Coleman and Bill Hampton are reversed. We apologize to Mr. Hampton, Mr. Coleman and to our readers for this error.

A Message From Stateville —

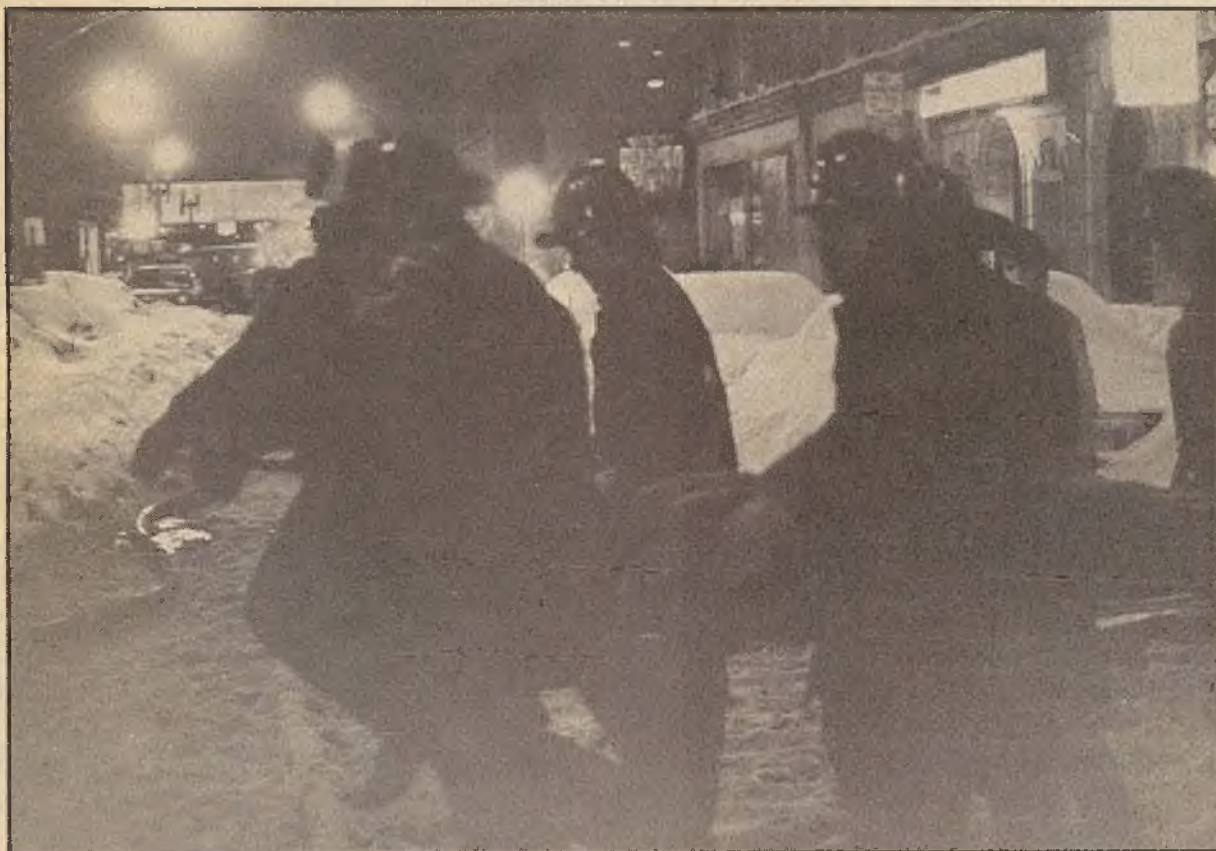
Dear Editor and Staff:

I would appreciate it very much if you would print this letter in your KEEP STRONG magazine. Thank you very much.

To All Black Brothers And Sisters,
 I want to know why haven't you stood up to fight for what you believe in. They killed Emmett Till, Jim Crow, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Fred Hampton and Mark Clark and got Dessie Wood in prison for defending herself. My people, the time is here when all Brothers and Sisters must unite and fight for freedom. Know man or woman, do not vote for freedom. The government is not going to grant freedom. That gradualism, the program of the liberals, White and Black, is not the road to equality. If you think it is, you are dead wrong people. I've been in Stateville Prison for three years already. I've been jumped on by S.W.P., my people, for no reason at all, at B-W House and also Menard prison. Do you think I'm sorry for the killing in Pontiac. I'm happy and believe me, I'm very happy. Also I don't mean go and kill police. If you're being jumped on by them, fight back people. If they get violent, you get violent. We must start a Brave Black Brothers and Sisters organization. We must help the poor people and others and let the weak sit back and let the strong stand.

From A Brave Black Brother,
Mr. Otis D. Frazier C-69112
Stateville Prison
P.O. Box 112, Rt. 53
Joliet, Ill. 60434

MURDER BY FIRE!



By 1976, half a dozen suburban businessmen were ready to “liquidate” their Uptown buildings. Three years later, 16 people were dead.

An intense investigation by KEEP STRONG, the BGA and ABC-TV’s “20/20” can now expose the Charlie Roberts gang — a multi-million dollar arson-for-profit ring.

I’d gone to bed early but I couldn’t sleep. The next thing I know flames were coming in the window through the kitchen from the outside. I saw the flames and I began to pick up a few things. Then I saw the sparks flying through the hall. The smoke was so thick that I said to myself I better get out there fast. I put my coat and my dress on and I went as fast as I could. I went down the hall. Then I could see light from the exit. That’s how I found it. I could see the stairs where I turned to my left and crawled

MURDER BY FIRE!

down the stairs and out the door. You couldn't get out the back door, it was all in flames. It was about 12:30 then, I got out in a few minutes, it seemed like twenty. When I got out I didn't see a soul around.

"That building should have been condemned a long time ago. Anyone that went in there saw it. The faucets were leaking and the plaster was falling down."

—An 80-year-old resident of 4530 Malden describes her last few minutes in her home.

Fire raged through the four-story building at 4530 Malden on the night of December 29. It started in the back and raced through the 45 unit structure in minutes. The flames pushed a wall of black smoke ahead of their path. The wall of smoke knocked the people down and the flames came along behind to devour them. And when it was over, seven bodies were carried out.

The building and the courtyard next to it are operated by the Charlie Roberts Gang. The Roberts Gang is a group of suburban businessmen. Their business is ghetto real estate, their merchandise is misery and their path is littered with death, destruction and millions of dollars in tax free money.

Roberts and his partners came to Uptown in the late 1960's when land was cheap, tenants easy to find and redevelopment just a couple of years down the road. Redevelopment was the city's plan to turn Uptown into an upper middle class community. It means clear and re-

The city used Roberts to clear

build. By 1968 the new city college at Wilson and Racine was almost off the drawing boards. The expansion of Weiss Hospital at Leland and Clarendon and Cuneo Hospital at Montrose and Clarendon were under discussion as was Bill Thompsons' high rise, Boardwalk, across from Cuneo. Plans to build a new middle school and Board of Health clinic at Wilson and Hazel were known to those who deal real estate. The city had targeted Uptown for redevelopment. But the federal funds they had used in past years, to buy and clear property for resale to developers had dried up under the Nixon administration.

Roberts bought into Uptown. With a few thousand dollars, he began to acquire buildings. In exchange for clearing the land he

would receive protection from the city.

Between 1968 and 1976, Roberts and his associates (Alfred Labunsky, Joseph Sadacca, John Schmiegel, Aaron Roenshin and Robert Baldi) bought more than 3 dozen buildings in Uptown and Edgewater.

By 1976 the city's target practice had taken much of Uptown apart (Roberts' people weren't the only ones who knew that money could be made buying cheap and selling to the right bidder.) The Roberts Gang had collected millions in rents, juice loans and organized theft of public aid and social security checks. Phase one was coming to an end and they were ready to "liquidate."

By the end of 1979, more than a dozen of their buildings had been



The Ellis Hotel (above) at 4651 Magnolia burned in January of 1979, killing 2 people, after 9 years in building court.

the land.

burnt in the previous two and a half years.

Some of the fires, like the one at the Ellis Hotel a year before that had killed two people, were set when the buildings were fully occupied. Other buildings burned as they stood, stripped of everything from copper in the wiring to 5 year old linoleum ripped off the kitchen floors and vacant.

4530 Malden was packed at one o'clock in the morning on December 27. Alvin Smith was there visiting a friend.



Alvin Smith: "The flames and the heat was coming up like an exhaust. I looked down and the third floor was burning. I could see flames shooting."

me. I told the fire chief that I couldn't get up. It seemed like my whole body was broke. I told the chief that it looked like there was a few DOA's out there. I just hoped it wasn't John, but it happened to be."

Dottie Rodriguez and her daughter were living on the third floor. "My daughter Carmen smelled smoke and heard an argument down at the end of the hallway. We thought that was just normal cause it happens a lot... Smoke kept getting stronger. We opened the door. The smoke was so strong it almost knocked us down. We ran to the window and looked out. People were standing out on the street and the fire department hadn't even been called yet. I'm screaming out the window to help save my daughter because



Dottie Rodriguez: "The smoke was so strong it almost knocked us down. Seconds after we got out of the building, my apartment went up in flames."

she was nine months pregnant. Seconds after we got out of the building, my apartment went up in flames."

The manager of 4530 Malden and the building next to it, was James Cantrell. Cantrell had been managing a Roberts building at 4448 Magnolia when it burned to the ground in 1977 the night before a court order, protecting it, took effect.

Within hours of the fire on Malden, a second building at 5406 Winthrop was engulfed in flames. Pat and Jim Shaw and their two children had moved into the building only days before. Pat Shaw explains why she was living there:

"First I went to 5406 N. Winthrop. He said he didn't have anything big enough at the time. All

"John Lloyd was a personal friend of mine. He broke his leg last year and I would drop in to see about him. I was sitting over there. He had gone to sleep and I was watching television. All of a sudden I smelled smoke. I didn't think anything of it at first. I opened the door and there was smoke in the hall. I went to wake Lloyd up and when we got to open the door there was no lights in the hall and there was three times as much smoke. I said, 'Come on, let's try to run out the back way.' We got no farther than the third floor, the flames and the heat was coming up like an exhaust or something. So we ran back to the apartment and opened up the window and yelled 'Fire, Fire.' Seemed like we didn't get no response. I looked down and the third floor was burning. I could see the flames shooting. So I tell Lloyd, 'We got to get out of here. I'm going to try to climb on the telephone wire and slide down the telephone pole and work my way down. I said use your own discretion, but that's our best bet.' I jumped off the wire and that's all I remember. I don't remember hitting the ground or nothing. When I came to, I saw Lloyd laying six or seven feet away from

MURDER BY FIRE!

he showed me was one room and I told him it wasn't big enough, so he took me down to Malden. He introduced me to Ray. They call him Ray but the rent receipt says Jim Cantrell. He said there was plenty of heat in the apartment and they would clean it up the next day. That night I gave the rent to John. John took it and put it in his pocket, plus twenty dollars security that was supposed to be for the laundry-room. We didn't spend the night, but went back the next day. It was the same. It hadn't been touched. I went downstairs and got ahold of Cantrell. I told him I wanted to see



Pat Shaw: "The whole back way was black. There was no way out. My husband was breaking the other window when I jumped. That's the last I saw of him."

The Roberts gang collected

John. When John came later that day, we asked him for our money back. He wouldn't give it back. He said he had another apartment up there on Winthrop that he would give me, so he pushed me into a 2 x 4 again.

"That afternoon (the day of the fire) I opened my door to go out and the whole back way was black. Then I ran to the front with Jim and the front was all black with smoke also. There was no way out. Jim started breaking the windows in the apartment and everybody was trying to use my windows to get out. I put my kids out there first. That's how I got burned, letting everybody use the window like that. My husband was breaking the other window when I jumped. That's the last time I saw him up there. I must have layed on the ground for 30 to

40 minutes before the ambulance arrived. When I got over here (Weiss Hospital) I asked about my husband. They said he was in critical shape but he'd be alright. When they got me upstairs and gave me a sedative, they told me he was dead."

The 'John' that Mrs. Shaw refers to is John Meyers, junior partner and ghetto rent collector for Jon Starr and Rehabitat, Inc. (see **KEEP STRONG**, Dec.-Jan. 1980.) Why Meyers went through such great pains to move the Shaws from one burning building to another is not clear. Six people died in the fire at 5406 N. Winthrop.



Carmen Sandoval: "They're all together. They got insurance. The owner sends some people to burn the building. They don't care who gets killed. They just care about getting the money back."

One of them was Rosa Maria Robles. Her daughter, Carmen Sandoval, moved into 5406 Winthrop in the middle of November. "I paid John Meyers \$225 for apartment 214 at 5406 Winthrop. He moved me into 306 which was a studio. He said it was just for a few days until he could fix my place up. But I was there for weeks. When I complained he talked real loud to me and said he would put me on the street. When I told him he couldn't just put me on the street he said he was a sheriff and showed me his badge. I moved into the building on November 15. My mother moved in a few days later. She was in a studio waiting for him to fix up a bigger apartment also. She's been in a wheel chair since I was fourteen, but he put her on the third floor. He told me he was selling the building. I said I was going to move and Mommie said she would move also. Meyers said, 'Don't move.' He told us he had another building. There was an apartment for me there. He didn't show me the apartment, he just moved me one night into 4522

\$3 million in rents alone from the 17 buildings.

Malden (courtyard next to 4530, owned by the Roberts Gang.) He moved my sister too. That was on December 5th. He was supposed to bring the rest of my things another night, but he never showed up again. My rent receipt was in my mother's apartment. It got burned up in the fire. I had a lot of stuff that got burned. He told us that his partner and him were the owners of this building, too.

"Mommie never moved out of 5406 Winthrop. She lived without a stove or refrigerator in the little studio. She was living like a dog. We kept telling Meyers that my mother needed heat in the apartment because it was so cold. They couldn't even take a bath because there was no hot water. Meyers said he was going to move Mommie in here (4522 Malden) where the manager (Cantrell) lives now. When my uncle saw the apartment, it was in bad shape.

"The day before the fire, we had

a fire here. The police kept us out till 3:30 or 4:00 in the morning. My sister's boyfriend came to tell me about the other fire (5406 Winthrop.) He had gone to look for something for Ramona and the building was burning. I got crazy. I don't know how I got to the building. I was running and I fell down because someone said they saw my mother's wheel chair. My uncle said he tried to save my mother's life. He had my mother on his back. She fell. He couldn't see or breath because the smoke was so thick. The last thing he heard about Mommie was when she said, 'Pito, I'm dying.' He looked for her, but he knew she was already dead.

"I found the lady that was living across the hall from my mother. She told me that no one could find John Meyers. He had run away with the money and no one could find him. Other people are looking for John too. One lady had given him \$225 and he didn't even give

her an apartment. She was sleeping in the hallway. She was very upset, crying and screaming. Meyers had locked up her stuff in the basement.

"Cantrell came up here the other day with the two lawyers. They said they needed the rent receipt because they were looking for John. Cantrell told me to go to the real estate office on Broadway and Leland. (Rehabitat, Inc. — 1116 W. Leland.)

"They're all together. I'm telling you. They got insurance. When the building has insurance, if it's in bad shape, then the owner sends some people to burn the building so they can get paid. They don't care about getting the money back."

"Getting the money back," is indeed the very heart of Roberts' operation. Investigators for KEEP STRONG calculate that Roberts, Schmeigel, Rosenshin and company

PARTIAL LIST OF UPTOWN BUILDINGS OPERATED BY CHARLIE ROBERTS GANG SINCE 1972

4615 Malden	FIRE GUTTED — ABANDONED	1979
4550 Malden	ABANDONED	1979
4541 Malden	ABANDONED — DEMOLISHED	1979
4530 Malden	FIRE GUTTED — 7 people killed —	1979
4651 Magnolia	DESTROYED BY FIRE — 2 people killed —	1979
5406 Winthrop	FIRE GUTTED — 6 people killed —	1979
4655 Kenmore	FIRE GUTTED — SOLD FOR REDEVELOPMENT	1978
4654 Kenmore	FIRE GUTTED — SOLD FOR REDEVELOPMENT — 1 child killed —	1978
4435 Racine	DESTROYED BY FIRE	1978
912 Montrose	FIRE GUTTED — ABANDONED	1978
4448 Magnolia	DESTROYED BY FIRE	1977
841 Windsor	FIRE GUTTED — ABANDONED	1977
922 Windsor	FIRE GUTTED — ABANDONED	1977
4521 Racine	DESTROYED BY FIRE — for college —	1975
5061 Winthrop	DESTROYED BY FIRE — for CHA —	1975
4522 Malden	STANDING	
4626 Magnolia	STANDING	

MURDERED BY ARSON

4530 N. Malden

Marge Gregory
Mitchell Pearman
George Putkoven
Clarence Hunt
Johnny Lloyd
Floyd Brown
One unidentified

5406 N. Winthrop

James Shaw
Tyrone Wilson
Rosa Maria Robles
Debra Burnett
Angela Burnett — Age 3
Mandel Bridges — Age 7

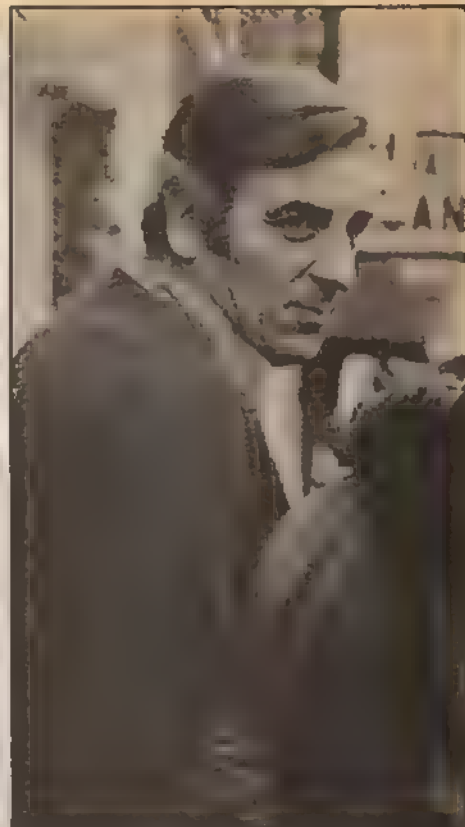
MURDER BY FIRE!

collected \$3 million in rents alone from the 17 buildings identified in this report. (See box.) From 1971 through 1976, rent gouging and a variety of other methods were used to steal money from defenseless tenants. Obviously, the income from the loan sharking and check stealing was not reported income. This provided enough money and credit to buy more buildings (the men operate more buildings on the Near North and in Westtown) and still take a profit. Sources close to the operation report that more than 70 buildings have passed through Roberts' gang since 1973.

After 1976, the fires picked up in number and size. The new round of fires didn't just damage, they gutted and destroyed. Now there was a market and price for the real estate. The City College bought the land under 4512 Racine for construction of a gymnasium. The Chicago Housing Authority purchased the corner of Winthrop and Winona (5061 Winthrop) to build 12 units of "scattered site" housing. And Jon Starr (the man Meyers worked for) bought the corners of Leland and Kenmore (4654 and 4655 Kenmore) for the federally funded Truman Square Development of high-income housing and condominiums. Over \$650 thousand was or will be made on the sale of the listed buildings. Another half million in fire insurance checks and falsified income tax deductions will or has come to the group from the same buildings.

The insurance adjuster has a key role in the operations. For a fee or a

The insurance adjuster — a key



Charlie Roberts (left), John Schmiegall (right) and their partners maintain an organization that includes sheriffs deputies, politicians, bank officers and building inspectors. The organization is held together by dirty, tax-free money.

percentage of the eventual insurance payment, the adjuster verifies the landlords' claim for damages and sets the price. Roberts' adjuster is Lawrence Warner of Lash/Warner Associates. Warner, a member of the board of directors of the North Community State Bank, and a crony and contributor to 46th Ward Committeeman Ralph Axelrod, is behind the multi-million dollar condominium development at Waveland and Lake Shore Drive.

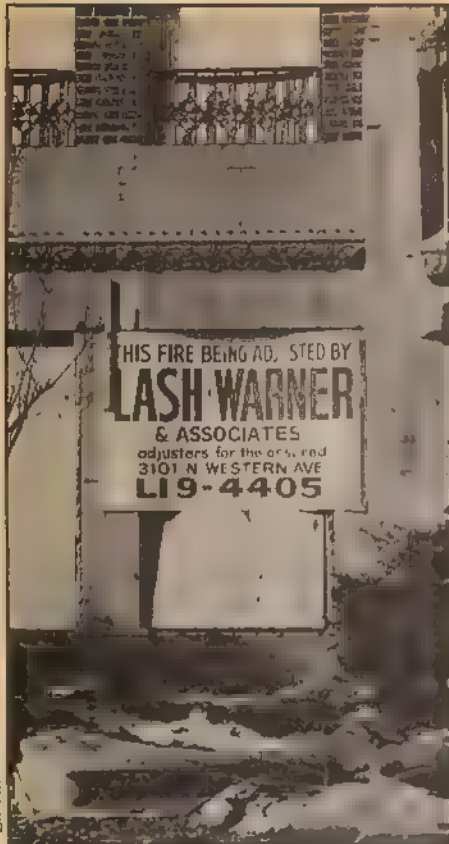
Warner has had little trouble making mincemeat of the bureaucratic mess at the Illinois Fair Plan and coming up with fat insurance checks for Roberts regularly. The Fair Plan, established by state law, is set up to pool funds from large insurance companies and sell insurance directly in ghetto areas where

private companies refuse to take the risk.

Warner's "adjustments" and damage estimates are used to inflate tax losses, allowing the group to make hundreds of thousands of dollars tax free every year.

Roberts' network of contacts, associates, friends and agents is as broad as it is deep. Warner is not the only one who maintains a "close" relationship with the ruling Democratic machine. Joe Sadacca is represented in court by the law firm of Schwartz, Ginsberg, Wigoda and Pytel. Senior counsel of that law firm is Bernard Stone, alderman of the 50th ward. Robert Baldi, until his death by police gunfire in 1976, was the favorite son of the northside Baldi family. The Baldis are regular contributors to the political funds of

role in the arson-for-profit ring.



Lash-Warner Associates sign was posted at 4530 Malden within days of the deadly fire.

Ralph Axelrod and his political mentor Sheriff Richard Elrod. More importantly, they have long been associated with the Marcy and D'Arco families who have kept a vice-like grip on the city's 1st ward for over 15 years.

Roberts' network includes Tony Enderle, sheriff, flophouse operator and Democratic precinct captain. Tenants believe that this explains the constant presence of sheriffs collecting rents and threatening or performing evictions for Roberts and others. Roberts bought the building at 2022 N. Western from Enderle several years ago.

The network includes George Brown, a member of the board of directors for the Bank of Chicago. Brown is a real estate investment

partner of Enderle. Investigators now believe it was Brown who arranged the sale of Roberts' buildings at Kenmore and Leland to Jon Starr (the Bank of Chicago is a major financier of the Truman Square Project.) It was that transaction, they state, that started a strange relationship between Starr and Roberts that led to the confusion John Meyers expressed so vividly about who really owned the burning buildings on Malden and Winthrop.

But Roberts' ties to and assistance from the city power structure have not all been in one direction. Building court records on file with the county reveal that 11 of the buildings carried numerous violations of the city code. The average number of court appearances for the buildings listed here is over 40. Some of the buildings, like the Ellis Hotel at 4651 Magnolia, were brought into court as far back as 1971. Through an endless battery of motions, continuances, delays and title maneuvers, Roberts was able to collect income from the Ellis through more than 100 court appearances. People who managed buildings for Roberts report making bribe payments to building inspectors for him. Others indicate that a man who was once a building inspector is now on the payroll at Cedar Realty, the gang's legitimate front operation.

It is clear, however, that the corporation council, functioning in court on behalf of the City of Chicago, sat back for years while Roberts maneuvered and let over a dozen buildings under the courts jurisdiction be burned.

In the summer of 1979, on a tip that the Parker Arms, 4550 Malden, was about to be burned, KEEP STRONG contacted the Bet-



Slim Coleman: "The federal government and the city government support the wholesale forced displacement of low and moderate-income people. So they overlook the arson and murder that these land grabs make inevitable."

ter Government Association in an attempt to stop the fire and catch the Roberts gang in the act. Local law enforcement officials from the state's attorney, police department and fire department had proved not interested and uncooperative when they were contacted and fed information after the murderous fire at the Ellis. The results of a joint six-month investigation by KEEP STRONG, the Better Government Association and the ABC-TV news magazine program "20-20" will be aired January 25 or February 1. That report will substantiate all that you've read this far. That investigation did not anticipate the fires of December 29 and 30 or the 12 deaths that they caused.

There were no shockwaves in Uptown. People familiar with the Roberts gang, or half a dozen

MURDER BY FIRE!

others who have been through Uptown in the last 15 years, have seen lots of fires and watched the death toll mount. They've watched their neighbors move away. They've cried when their children were cold and sick with pneumonia and scarlet fever in December. They struggled when they had no lights or hot water for six weeks in the summer.

On January 9, almost 200 of them took this case to Thomas Sullivan, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois and the door step of Jane Byrne. Of Sullivan they demanded a federal strike

Anger in Uptown.

force investigation and prosecution of the Roberts gang. From the mayor they demanded an end to the city redevelopment policy that rewards arsonists and speculators for a job well done.

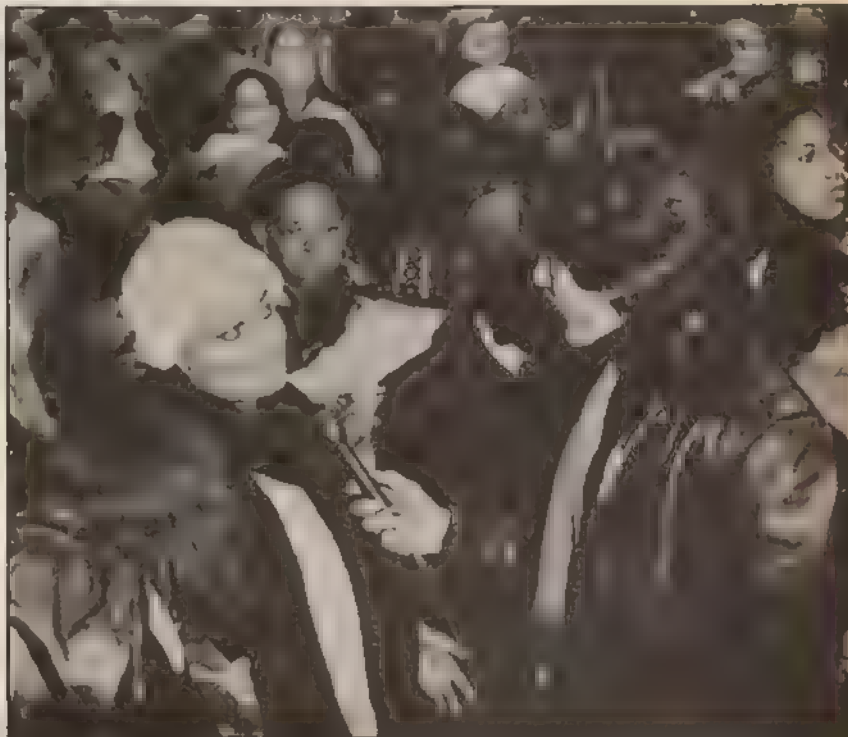
Slim Coleman, Co-chair of the Heart of Uptown Coalition outlines the community's analysis: "When the system chooses to support the larger crime, it chooses to ignore the resulting smaller crimes. The American system chose to support the crime of stealing the Indian people's land, so it chose to overlook the massacres of Indian women and children. The same system chose to support the institution of slavery, and so it overlooked the resultant lynchings and castrations. The system supported the war in Vietnam,

so it overlooked the massacres at My Lai.

"The federal government and the city government support the wholesale forced displacement of low and moderate-income people from the city, the resegregation of the city by race and class, their resulting disenfranchisement and the profiteering of the banks and larger developers: and so they overlook the arson and murder that these land grabs make inevitable. That is why the arson ring responsible for the burning of 16 buildings, 16 deaths, countless injuries, insurance and tax fraud has never been seriously investigated."

No matter what happens next, one thing is for sure. There is too much anger in Uptown for the fighting to stop now. □

Demand End To City Policy Rewarding Arsonists



On January 8, Uptown brought their case downtown — They carried a coffin (left), symbolic of the deaths from the fires, and placards naming those who had died. After demonstrating in the Daley Center Plaza, the demonstrators moved to city hall converging on the fifth floor in front of Mayor Byrne's office. ABC-TV newsman Geraldo Rivera speaks with angry demonstrators in front of the mayor's office (right).

Twelfth week at Harvester

ON STRIKE!

MELROSE PARK — The United Auto Workers' strike against International Harvester is now in its fourth month. Thousands of workers are on strike at plants throughout the nation. Robert Lockhart of Magnolia St. in Uptown works as a tractor assembler at Harvester's Melrose Park plant.

The strike began October 1st when International Harvester demanded "mandatory" overtime from its workers. The UAW wants overtime to be "optional" like it has always been. "If mandatory overtime were included in the workers' contract, Lockhart explained, the company would be able to order workers to work up to four extra hours (12 total) each day and to work on Saturdays. The company is 'dead set' on mandatory overtime."

The UAW however, is equally dead set in striking for optional overtime, and the right to transfer to other departments for better jobs and pay. "What kind of life can you lead when you have to give up all your free time to the company?" asks Lockhart. "It's like they own you. I prefer to have Saturdays to



Striking workers at Harvester's Melrose park plant are, left to right: Jim Lashley, Jimmy Fowler, Marty Wysockinski, Mike Cicero and Sidney Mahone. Below, Robert Lockhart — "It's like they own you."



myself to do the things I enjoy. I don't want them to be able to tell me I have to work when I have to take care of other business."

Union officials have told Lockhart that the strike might last until March. "The company had a lot of guys volunteering to work overtime just before the strike and it caused quite a racket, because they knew that we'd be going out on strike soon. Now the company has

stockpiled tractors in the yards and we're hurting."

"Just before Christmas there was another big racket because a train came in to take out some tractors. A couple of guys laid down on the tracks to stop it, so the company came out and said that only four guys were allowed to be at each gate of the plant. At first we had whole departments at each gate. The number of picketers wasn't in our contract and I don't know how the union fell for it. (the company's limit on picketers) Now the trucks are coming in and out," said Lockhart. "We should have the right to prevent anything from going in."

Lockhart thinks that the company may be beginning to hurt because their biggest competitor, Caterpillar Tractor, settled their strike with the UAW in early December and is making money again.

"The majority of guys weren't prepared for a long strike and it is hurting their pockets financially," says Lockhart. "The union pays us \$50 a week in strike benefits which comes in handy but with bills coming in we're still hurting. I'm better off than most guys because my wife works, but it's still not like working 40 hours a week." □

11th Annual CHRISTMAS

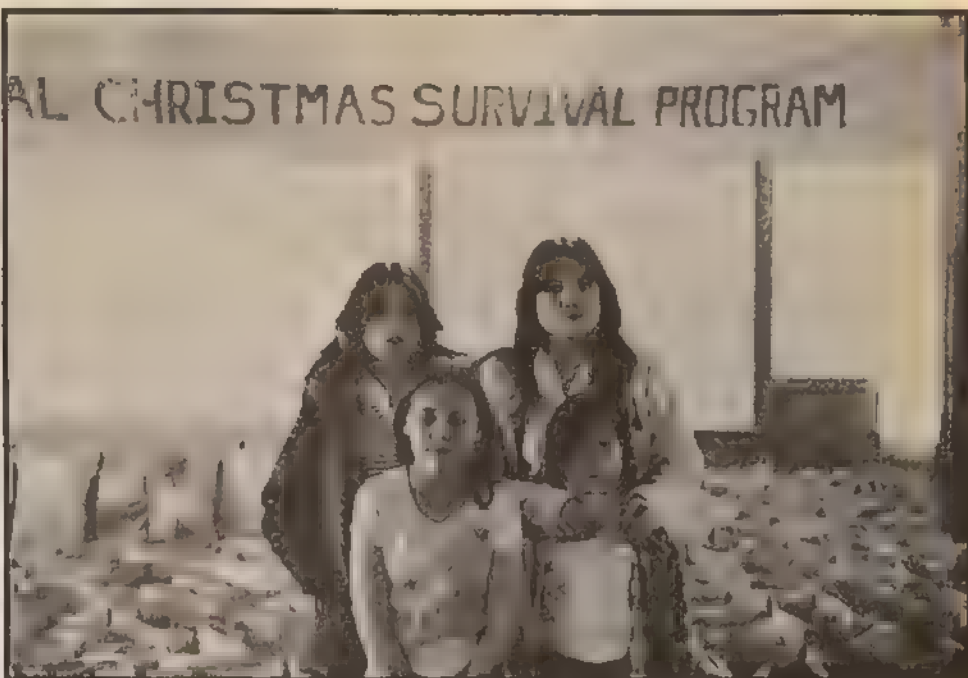
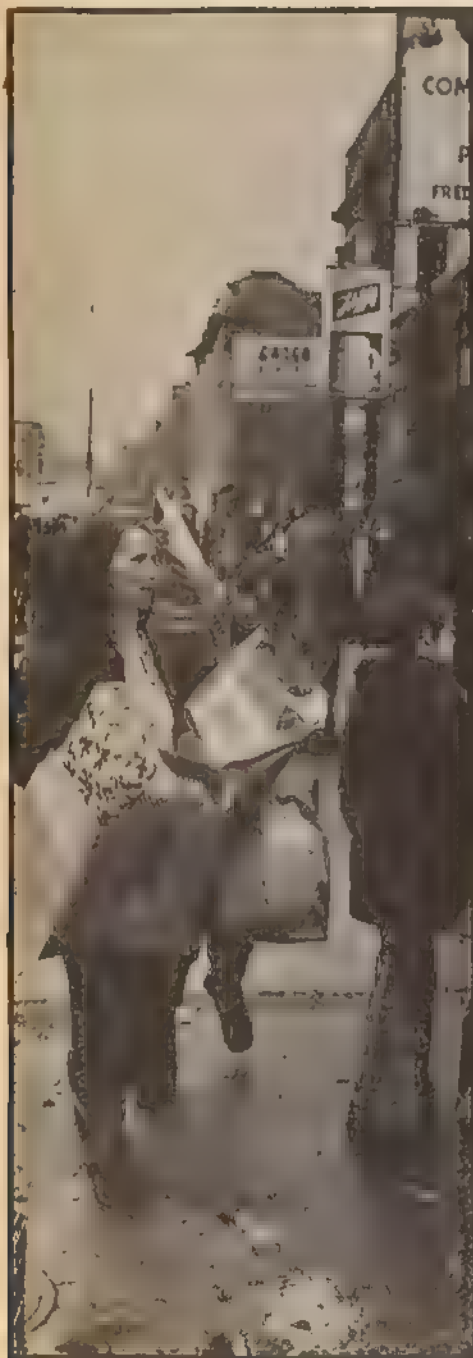
The Heart of Uptown Coalition shared Christmas with 1,000 families from over 40 neighborhoods this year. Coalition members, staff and volunteers worked for weeks in advance of the day of the program, wrapping and sorting toys, packing groceries and preparing gift packs for 300 senior citizens.

The program, in its 11th year, has remained a community effort since it began. □



Hundreds of Uptown residents worked collectively and put in long hours to make the 11th Annual Christmas Survival Program a success. Spirited volunteers filled 1,000 bags with groceries — all the trimmings for a full Christmas dinner. Special thanks go to the youth and other volunteers who raised money through canning and collected donations of food and toys from local businesses. As December 23 approached, volunteers worked round the clock filling jars with honey and wrapping presents.

SURVIVAL PROGRAM



Members of the Heart of Uptown Coalition, other Uptown residents and members of the Chicago Area Black Lung Association arrive at 1222 W. Wilson to pick up gifts for their families. The 11th Annual Christmas Program guaranteed that more than 1,000 families and senior citizens could celebrate Christmas with dignity. The people share their hopes for continued victories in the community's growing fight for decent housing, health care, quality education, and most of all, a future for the youth.

Behind the Faces

JOSEFINA CARDONA



Housekeeper...babysitter at the LBJ ranch...machine operator...Josefina Cardona worked night and day to buy a home for her family. When a drill press twisted her arm she never sued the company which gave jobs to her Mexican friends who could find no other work. The company gave her a "leave" and then took away her job....

Josefina Cardona lives with her husband and three daughters at their home on Kenmore Street.

I was born in Mexico on April 18th, 1928 and was the youngest child in my family. I did not go to school when I was a little girl because there were no schools where I lived. They didn't want to send teachers there because there were just a few people. It was a full day's walk to the nearest town where there was a school.

When I was about 16 years old my father died. He died in the year that there was so much corn and so much beans and there was much work to do. So I worked with the people because I worked fast and

they would follow me. I used to work like a man and then I'd run out to the house and I'd cook for the workers and I'd give them meat and they would be happy and work late. They worked from sun to sun and I'd always work with them. Then I was thinking, across the years and time, I was thinking that they worked too hard and did not see good money. I was thinking to do something else and I went to the town at San Luis Potosi and I went to school at night. I used to do the housework and say the timetables so I could learn them. I learned fast and I was happy because it was different. The teachers told me I was doing fine and say to me, 'You're going to be somebody with the way

you work.' I started asking for ink pens and all the supplies that I didn't have, but the people I stayed with didn't have much either. I asked my mother but she just shook her head and it made me sad. I thought I better do something else. I went two years to school.

My brother made a trip to Mexico and he said, 'Look, you go to school and you learning okay but you don't have any clothes, and you don't have the supplies to continue. It will be better for you in Texas. You'll make a better living.'

When I came to Texas I worked very hard picking cotton. When the cotton was finished we started on the tomatoes and then I picked car-

rots. I would feel faint, like I just couldn't make it. There was too little money — not enough for rent and food. It was bad.

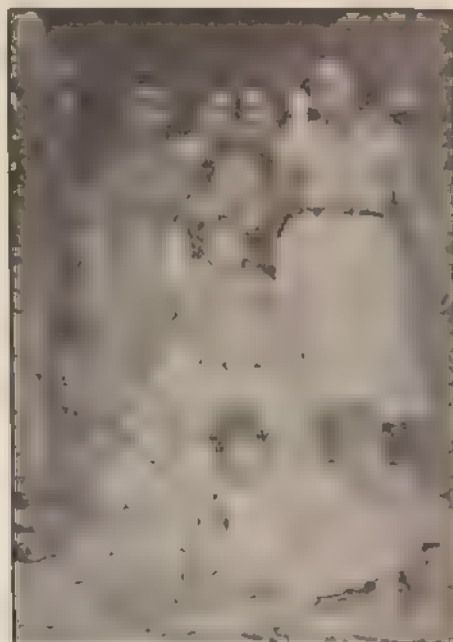
So I went to work housekeeping and then I made a better living. I got clothes and good food to eat and made \$20 a week. I sent money home to my family every week. Sometimes I'd have \$10 and I didn't want to break the \$10 to buy candy or ice cream, so I wouldn't buy it because I wanted to send the \$10 to my mother. I worked for a senator. I remember that one night they took me to the LBJ ranch to be a babysitter. I saw so many things I'd never seen before. They had a meeting and at night they had a big party. We stayed there about three days.

I worked for his family for two years. If they helped to send me to school I would have stayed with them. I never told them that because I spoke only a few words of English and the Spanish people lived very far away and I had no one to interpret for me. This family fixed my citizenship papers. They said that I did very good work for them but now we want to let you go away to make good money. They said, 'Don't stay in Texas. Go far away and you will make good money and things will be better for you.'

"I would ask them if I could rent an apartment . . . When I'd say I was Mexican, they'd slam the door in my face."

I knew the Villareal family and they brought me to Chicago Heights. I worked at a farm, clean-

ing house and picking tomatoes. I stayed there until the winter came. Then I went to Roseland, Illinois and found work in a restaurant. I met some nice girls and they told me to come and work with them at General Electric. They took me there and I filled out the application and I went to work there. I was happy because I made \$47 a week. I was about 22 years old.



(Above) Josefina Cardona and her nieces in Mexico; (Upper Right) Josefina Cardona; (Bottom) Josefina and her family in Mexico.

Then I worked at a factory on Armitage where they made spring mattresses. At that time I met a nice boy at a party and he used to wait for me after work. He wanted to marry me but I just had my uncle and aunt here — they weren't really my relatives but we just used to say that. They represented my family when he asked me to marry him. He talked to that family and we were married in the Catholic church.

When my first daughter, Rosa, was born, we looked for a bigger place to live. I used to look for rent signs and then I'd knock on the

doors. The people were so lousy and mean and didn't treat me like a human being. I would ask them if I could rent their apartment and they



would say, 'What nationality are you?' And when I'd say Mexican, they would slam the door in my face. Sometimes I used to say I was Puerto Rican and they'd tell me we don't want no Puerto Ricans here and I'd say I'm Mexican, not Puerto Rican. Then they would say, 'We don't want no Spanish here. Get out.'

I stayed where I lived and worked and saved my money to buy a house. I did not spend money on clothes, because I could not afford it.

I got pregnant again and then we found a place on Evergreen. We lived there for five years. I started working at a factory that made all kinds of preserves.

I used to take my girls to Children's Memorial Hospital and at that time I didn't have to pay much money. I used to go to the clinic and they would give me vitamins and the nurses would come to my house and they'd see I was short of clothes. I had to wash my clothes all the time because I had so few.

Then I got a job at Warwick Manufacturing on Touhy. I used to make good money there. I was a machine operator and I handled all the machines.

We moved to a house at 1760 N. Burley. The man who owned it gave me a nice apartment. He was an old man and he couldn't walk and I felt sorry for him. I used to take him hot chocolate and some Spanish food. I would clean the yard and organized the garbage. He said he wanted me to have the house so he sold it to us. He made a loan in the bank of \$6,000 and we sent \$3,000 to his son in Italy.

I worked at the factory during the day and at night I would crochet things to sell at night. I brought a niece from Mexico to watch my children.

My husband owned a nightclub but he started losing money. I saved my money and we got the down



(Above) Josefina on her wedding day;
(Below) Josefina Cardona as a young woman.

When we took this house it had holes everywhere. It was in very bad shape. I found some good people — Mexicans and they helped me fix it. I was still working at Warwick and I had to get up at 5 a.m. every morning to go to work. I found a job in the city at a factory that made plastic supplies, because it was closer. I only made \$20 a day and it was not enough money.

Then the roof on my house started leaking and I didn't know what to do because I would have to pay someone more than \$20 a day to fix it. I did the roofing myself. One of my daughters helped me and we put in the roof. I also painted the house myself. When the owner would come to get the payments he used to see me fixing it and he'd say this house is changing and I'm surprised a woman made this house change.

The city put the house in court because things weren't fixed right and I had so much trouble and I worked so hard and I had to raise the girls too.

I worked nights at the plastic supply factory so I could stay home during the day. The owner liked my work and he used to take me to his house to clean up his apartment. I would work all night from 12 a.m. to 8 a.m. and then I would clean his home until 6 p.m. Then I'd go

"I worked at the factory during the day and at night I'd crochet things to sell. I saved my money for our home on Kenmore Street."

payment for our home on Kenmore Avenue. We sold our house on Burley Street to pay for this house.

I was by myself because my husband left. He used to visit us and leave money for the girls.

home and sleep until 11 p.m. I did this three days a week.

You know it took my life away with hard work. At work I got hurt on one of the machines. I was clearing it off before the day shift start-



Mrs. Cardona and daughter Alicia, in front of their house on Kenmore Street. Mrs. Cardona — "I did the roofing myself." The owner "was surprised a woman made this house change."

ed at 8 a.m. and the drill caught my glove and twisted my arm. I could not work for two months. The insurance gave me about \$200 because this place was too cheap and the insurance was not any good. I

didn't sue the place, but they didn't do what they were supposed to do. They should have paid me more money. The reason I didn't sue was that they hired Mexican people that did not have any papers and I did

not want to give a bad impression for the others, because in some places Mexican people cannot find any jobs. I always took people there and they gave them jobs. When I left I was making \$3.50 an hour and I worked there for over five years.

I got a leave of absence and went to Mexico to visit my family in December, 1977. When I went to Mexico, I was so nervous from so much work, I got sick.

I did not like it in Mexico because it is too hard to live there. You just spend money and no money comes in because there are not enough jobs.

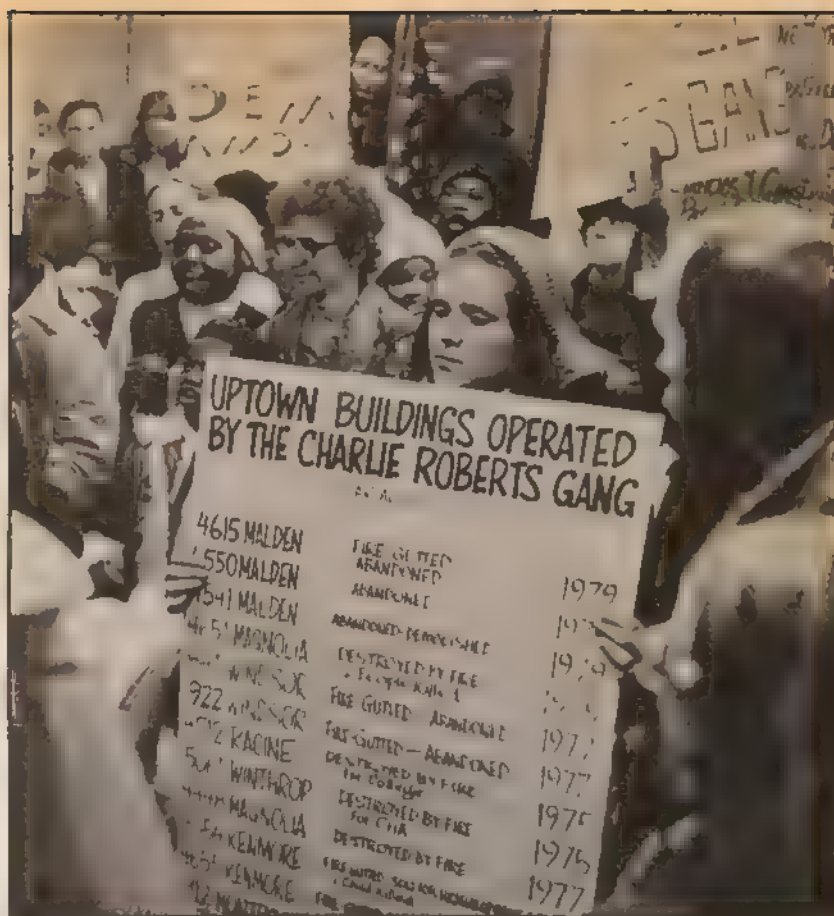
Now I came back from Mexico two weeks late and they wouldn't give me my job back. They told me if I wanted to work there I had to start out new. I got disgusted and didn't go back to work there. I got an idea that what they wanted was to not pay me my three weeks vacation pay. When you work steady at one place, they want to get rid of you because they don't want to pay more benefits. So I think that they wanted to get rid of me and used my coming back late as an excuse.

Now at night, when I go to sleep my arms are like pins and needles. I have to get up two or three times during the night to move my arms because they feel so bad. My doctor says it's because my arms are too much in action and I've got to rest my arms.

Now I work at the Ark Thrift Shop at 4703 N. Kedzie. I cannot work every day, so I work three days a week. The owner is the first person to help me and she gives me things I never had before. Also, I do housecleaning for her at her condominium and I do some work for her sister too. □

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Urban Resistance

re·sist (rĭ-zĭst') *v.* -sisted, -sisting, -sists. —*tr.* 1. To strive or work against; fight off; oppose actively. 2. To remain firm against the action or effect of; withstand. 3. To keep from giving in to or enjoying; abstain from. —*intr.* To offer resistance; act in opposition. —See Synonyms at **oppose**. —*n.*

Keep Strong Interview

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Rev. Charles Koen, the dynamic leader of the United Front (Cairo, Illinois) and President of the National Association of the Neighborhoods, looks at people's power forming in the midst of the central cities.



The schools have been mortgaged to private financiers in the slickest deal yet.



Communities are fighting developers at Milwaukee and Ashland and Irving and Rockwell; in Hyde Park and at 810 Grace. The issues differ slightly but the fight is for control of real estate.





**“It’s never time out
for people moving.”**

— Rev. Charles Koen



In 1969, the city of Cairo, Illinois (pop. 6,000) flashed across America.

The city’s 2,000 Black people had endured Jim Crow segregation since the Civil War. On March 31, a group of vigilantes attacked the Black community. Now the people said enough and began to demonstrate. They were attacked and they defended themselves. In doing so, they lifted the civil rights struggle in Cairo and around the country to a new level and captured the respect and love of millions.

In the middle of much of this resistance was a 24 year-old Baptist minister.

Rev. Charles Koen was born in Cairo in 1945. He became involved in the civil rights struggle in 1962 at the age of 16. His efforts to integrate public eating places in and around Cairo brought him to jail seven times before his seventeenth birthday.

In 1963, he entered McKendree College in Lebanon, Illinois. He left there three years later to work as a job counselor in a Job Corps center

in Kentucky.

In 1968, Rev. Koen moved to St. Louis where he organized the National Black Liberators, a politically oriented group that was active in the elections of several state legislators and a U.S. Congressman, William Clay. Rev. Koen was arrested twelve times in seven months in St. Louis and almost beaten to death in a police station there.

In April of 1969, Rev. Koen returned to Cairo to help organize community resistance to the oppression and open hostility of the White power structure. A boycott of Cairo businesses by the Black community began on April 7. Lasting two years, it became the longest-running boycott of its kind in U.S. history. Ultimately, it devastated the businesses and smashed the open face of the racist power structure, forcing them to concede and retreat.

Since 1971, Rev. Koen has focused his attention on the vital issues of housing, jobs and economic development in the city of Cairo.



**"We have maintained
the longest economic boycott
in the history of this country."**

The United Front, the organization formed during the boycott, has become an umbrella of community based programs. The Front has played a major role in the development of over 200 units of new and rehabilitated low-income housing, and more is on the way.

In the fall of 1979, Rev. Koen committed his time and talents to the struggle to keep Homer G. Phillips Hospital in St. Louis open, a closing directed by the city of St. Louis. (See KEEP STRONG, October, 1979). In November, 1979, Rev. Koen was elected president of the National Association of Neighborhoods, at their convention in Louisville.

KEEP STRONG interviewed Rev. Koen at the offices of the United Front in Cairo.

KEEP STRONG: Could you explain what the United Front has learned through the struggle in Cairo?

REV. KOEN: We had undergone 379 nights of attacks made by the Klan on the Black community of Cairo. We have been involved in several lawsuits and legal action in the community. We have maintained the longest continual economic boycott in the history of the country, as well as the longest continual struggle in the history of the country. Our experience to this point, has been a microcosm of what can happen in this country,

specifically, when it comes down to struggling people, Black people, Latino people and poor people in general.

At this point Cairo equips all of its leadership with a clear understanding of what can happen and what should happen to the rest of the country. In terms of building the type of people's movement and building our strength up in the areas of housing, education, unemployment, health and job development. This is what we have been doing for the last ten years.

We have pretty much resolved the issue of civil rights in the Cairo community. The boycott has been so effective that the merchants have succumbed to pressure and now have the position that Blacks should have the right to shop where they want to shop and eat where they want to eat, because they need the money. We have resolved the police brutality situation, because when the police begin to beat on a citizen, specifically in this case if he is a Black citizen, then our office stands ready to take that case all the way to the hilt.

And when the city knows that they are going to lose thousands of dollars for beating up one poor Black person, then they have an understanding that they need to tell the policeman to hold back on his billy club or hold back on his pistol. We have stood for ten years on these issues. In the last two years we



Rosamund Cox

Reverend Charles Koen, president of NAN: "We must now return to direct action — the federal agencies cannot handle the waves of people."

have dealt with those issues more sporadically. We've been building the economic base.

KEEP STRONG: The United Front has taken an active role in the struggle for decent housing. What is the background?

REV. KOEN: Housing is very key. In Cairo, people are living in shacks. We still have some people who do not have plumbing in their houses. Housing here is used as a weapon to control and contain the Black community. We have defused the situation. We have the first twenty-four single family units being built around the country on the rehabilitation basis. It took us over two years even to make this approach. We brought Farmers Home Mortgage Administration, who provided the mortgage money to our development corporation, with HUD, who provided the Section 8 certificates for the approach. We are now putting poor folks into single family units on a

***"We have to create coalitions
where Black power exists, Brown power exists,
White power exists and all three make up the
real power that controls...."***

scattered site basis.

The Cairo power structure has used housing as a key issue to force poor people out of the community. Since 1971, the utilities (publicly owned) have tripled, the taxes have doubled. We were building, at the time, single family homes. We built 172 of them.

Many of the people were forced out of those homes because they were borderline cases in the beginning. They couldn't afford the high utilities and the high taxes. The homes sat vacant for a couple of years until we could pull the first approach together.

Farmers Home and HUD had not been working together on a consistent basis. So we held two conferences, where we brought the people in to say to the officials what the problems were in the areas of housing. It was at that point that the federal officials felt the need to work with our people in the development of homes. We also spent two years in the development of new housing. Of course, during the last ten years, the city has refused to endorse the plan, the county has not sold us any land. Consequently, they have not received any HUD financing for the last two years.

We are now part of an area-wide project that covers five counties. If the city and the county do not change their tune towards the area-

wide project, then we're going to initiate a complaint. Neither the city nor the county are going to receive any of the funds for development that are appropriated by the president. Dr. King felt housing was key in terms of how a person feels and how a person may think in reference to who he or she may really be. Housing has a lot to do with underlying health problems. If people are living in shacks and they're cold, they're going to be in bad health. So, we moved in on housing as a key industry that must not be played with by ridiculous



politicians and racist Klansmen, who are trying to hold back the political growth of any group of people. We have taken this issue all the way to the federal government in Washington. We perceive at this point, that housing is key to

the survival of the people socially, economically, spiritually and politically.

We are now seeing the same problems with the displacement problem in the major urban areas. It's a problem that exists all over the country. Now the reason this problem exists, the major reason, is that there is a need to control the Black and the poor population of the country. In Cairo we found that Blacks outnumber Whites. A way to control the populations is to control the housing.

In this country it is very difficult to control population through unemployment or through employment. People can get on general assistance or aid. If they can find housing they can maintain. In Cairo, they have gone through sporadically, acting like mad men and attempted to tear down some of the best housing, which is public housing. In 1977, they wanted to tear down about one-third of the houses in the all Black Pyramid Courts. That's when our eyes were opened to the fact that housing is a must and we began to move on it. Not only does it provide decent housing for people, it provides employment.

We have a self-help housing program, a rental housing program, a management firm and we are involved in single family homes. The United Front has covered and is covering, including multi-family

homes, every aspect of the housing industry.

At the same time, we are speaking about employing people who have not been employed in the housing industry. We are breaking into the craft industry. We said to the craft unions, unless you employ all the people, specifically some of the Blacks who have not been involved before, then we're going to have problems. The unions have been very supportive on a national level. We have the support of business agents on the local level. We are a development company. We have been negotiating with private contractors.

The local Klansmen have been successful in preventing any new construction because they have not sold us land, enough land to make the first 36 unit approach. We didn't discover that they were freezing us out until six months ago. They were forcing all the local contractors not to come into the area, the general contractor who could come up with the money. We resolved that issue. We are bringing in a general contractor. He's going to hire some local Black subcontractors. We are going to make a major housing approach within the next couple of months.

We expect that through the housing industry, Dr. King's dream will become a reality, in reference to economics.

KEEP STRONG: You were recently elected President of the National



Reverend Charles Koen addresses congregation — "Our experience has been a microcosm of what can happen in this country, specifically when it comes down to struggling people, Black people, Latino people and poor people."

Association of Neighborhoods (NAN). What kind of contribution do you think that organization can make?

REV. KOEN: Ever since the Nixon administration move on the United Front and various other progressive groups around the country, I've been trying to find out what kind of national vehicle could we tap into. That's why I'm regional Vice President of Southern Christian Leadership Conference. I was checking that out. I looked at the NAACP, the Urban League, you name the leagues, I've checked them out. But as far as one being ideal, the National Association of Neighborhoods is ideal. NAN is not gigantic to the point where you already have a bureaucracy set in or you already have folks in a set of mind.

In NAN you still have a baby growing and you can have it. You can mold it, you can develop it, although the mind has been set. The baby can count to one. He knows his ABC's. The baby knows about setting up structures that can protect the workers and deal with being safe as far as IRS is concerned. A lot of us got out there in the '60s and we didn't know what an

accountant was, what a controller was. You know when Nixon came through, that was the first thing he set up, was the intelligence division of the IRS. The first time I met them was in this post office. What I'm saying is that now we are more sophisticated than we used to be. We went through a training period in the '60s. But NAN is an organization that's there and if we all plug in properly we can move it in behalf of the people.

What we have attempted to do is jell together where different folks are coming from and pull together a national neighborhood movement, one that's called a national neighborhood movement but in essence is a national movement, a progressive movement dealing with the survival of people, specifically poor and afflicted people; and now, because of inflation and recession, even middle-class people because they are going to be poor.

In the '60s, we pushed up a lot of folks. We thought we don't want no job. Well, put the brother in the job and we'll stay out there dealing in the streets. They were easing in to these jobs, laying back and patting us on the shoulder, "Go ahead on brother, right on." Now they are laying around those desks and

"The displacement problem is an issue we must attack. When you get into displacement you're talking about Blacks, poor Whites, Chicanos all being displaced and you're talking about taking on a major struggle."

they're locked in. So if they are going to be liberated, we got to liberate them. But we got to carry them through a whole re-educational process.

I see NAN as a vehicle that can really do that.

I see what came out of Louisville regarding the whole displacement problem as being an issue that we must attack immediately. There needs to be a moratorium on displacement until HUD looks at this thing and understands it. I'm not talking about just redlining. See, they're putting a whole lot of emphasis now on redlining. It's bad to redline anyplace, but what's worse than redlining is displacement. I think the issue needs to be brought forward. Because redlining is under attack and needs to be stopped, then the Gail Cincottas and the other folks who are fighting the redlining issue around the country need to join in and put their name and their stamp and their support behind the displacement fight.

Because when we get into displacement, you're not just talking about a cultural or ethnic fight, when you get into displacement you're talking about dealing on some racial situations, you're talking about dealing with Blacks, poor Whites and Chicanos all being displaced and you're talking about taking action on a major struggle.

NAN has taken a strong posi-

tion on displacement. We have to fulfill that convention mandate.

What we have to do is organize those people that are being removed, being destroyed and being easily and slowly pushed out to those suburbs.

They say gas is going up to \$2.50 a gallon in the next ten years. You're out in 'Do Wa Diddy' and need to drive thirty or forty miles back and forth to work. It'll cost \$25 to fill half the tank and there are people who aren't making \$25 a day. We're talking about a serious situation.

We have to begin to say, 'Hey,' this is the breakdown. This is the way it used to be four years ago, this is the way it used to be two years ago, this is the way it is now and this is the way it's going to be. Now where do you want to be? Because if they take them out to the suburbs, they're going to show them nice houses and big lots. They're going to say this is a dream. They won't see over the wall—they are going to program them for disaster. We have to move in those cities and raise the issue of displacement and then take it all to Washington.

Those who are standing in our way, who have been hooked up through little grants, etc., it's best for them to support us. We should let them know that if they don't support us, we're going to use our political, economic, spiritual and social strength to demonstrate to

the people and let them understand who they really are. Because we got a lot of folks out there who are sitting in places acting like they got some power — and all they are, are puppets on the string. When the time comes, we'll let them know that we going to cut the strings.

In the cities we have no choice, we do that or we're going to be in a very difficult situation. It's very similar to what's going on, on a class and race basis in South Africa.

KEEP STRONG: What are the main tools that people have at hand to fight for stable communities?

REV. KOEN: Let's say a community asks the government for a certain number of jobs or units of housing or better transportation or a health clinic, and the government official responds that it's going to take time, a year or two or three. When they say a year, we're going around them to the next one. Then we'll bring the people to his boss who makes the final decision and let him tell them it's going to take three years. Then they can say to him, well we're going to move into this office with you and wait for three years to come about. You have to begin to let these people understand that this is the real world out here. We just ain't joking, there are some real folks out here. Like I was in Uptown, I guess about three weeks ago, and those are real

"We're pulling together a national neighborhood movement... dealing with the survival of poor people."

people. I was impressed.

The average guy who is working in the bureaucracy can't imagine that kind of scene. If you sit here and describe it to him, he still can't get it. Because he ain't never experienced it. If he did experience it, he's blocked it out. It's a mental block back there. He ain't going to learn and he ain't making no mistake about going back to it. What we have to do is bring to them what they don't want to see and don't want to realize exists.

I think that we must return to direct action. Direct action does not necessarily have to be on the community level by community groups. It may be that tomorrow at twelve o'clock, that we got a problem with HUD. We can have somebody go over and demonstrate until they say yes. The man from HUD says, "Damn, how did they get up from Cairo that quickly?" That's a network. Let's say you're being jammed in Chicago and four or five other groups around the country are being jammed. We can call a national demonstration on the Department of Commerce.

Direct action is not out of business. The only reason that it's out of business is because folks been sold a bill of goods. But if we ever say it ain't out of business, it's very much in business and deal with it, then they can't handle it. The federal agencies, HUD, Department of Commerce, I don't care which

agency, cannot handle the waves of people. That aspect of NAN must become a reality.

We must begin to do that. We must begin to support each other in doing that. It must be done for a very specific reason. It must be done scientifically and precisely. At a precise time people fade away. At a precise time they may pop up over here. At a precise time they may pull back over here. Because everybody has been programmed into thinking that it's time out for that, but it's never time out for people moving.

KEEP STRONG: What do you see as the basis for unity between non-Whites and poor Whites, as the struggle moves into the '80s?

REV. KOEN: I think that many poor Whites still lean on the fact that 'I ain't Black and I ain't Brown, I'm White and I'm right.' That thought says to them as long as I'm White, I can make it. I don't have to struggle on the level that the Browns and Blacks are struggling on. I've got it made if I can just hold on until things change.

Now, in Cairo, you have a good example of that. You got poor Whites who are very similar to Appalachian Whites, but they see Blacks moving ahead through struggle. They'll come over and ask for help occasionally, but they won't join up. The social, political, spiritual and economic atmosphere



Reverend Koen with civil rights activist and popular singer Nina Simone.

of the area says 'No.' If you do that, then you got to go. You're an out-cast altogether. It's like cutting a card. When you cut that card it's a separation of your ties to the White community.

In many cities around the country we have that same polarization in the White communities and somehow we have to break through that polarization. We have to create coalitions where Black power exists, Brown power exists, White power exists and all three powers make up the real power that controls the powers. That coalition has never existed on a sustained basis, I don't think, in this country.

In terms of that process jelling, it's going to take some hardcore Whites, who would go into White communities in cities where you have strong Black organizations, who are ready so you could hook up those kinds of coalitions. It would be interesting to see what happens. I think it would be the beginning of a whole new organizing effort in this country, specifically when each group respects the cultural differences of the other groups. □

CAIRO, ILLINOIS

379 Nights Of Attacks

The Black citizens of Cairo had endured Jim Crow segregation since the Civil War. In the early spring of 1969 they said, "Enough!" and began to march through Cairo to demonstrate resistance.

United Front



United Front

(Above) Black citizen in confrontation with Whites;
(Left) Reverend Koen leads march through Cairo;
(Bottom) March starting in Pyramid Courts, Black housing project.



United Front



United Front

Many of the city's White people, no better off in wealth, stature or security than the Blacks, were mobilized against the righteous demonstrations of the Black community. With nothing but an illusion to protect, they stumbled into line behind the city's tiny ruling elite.

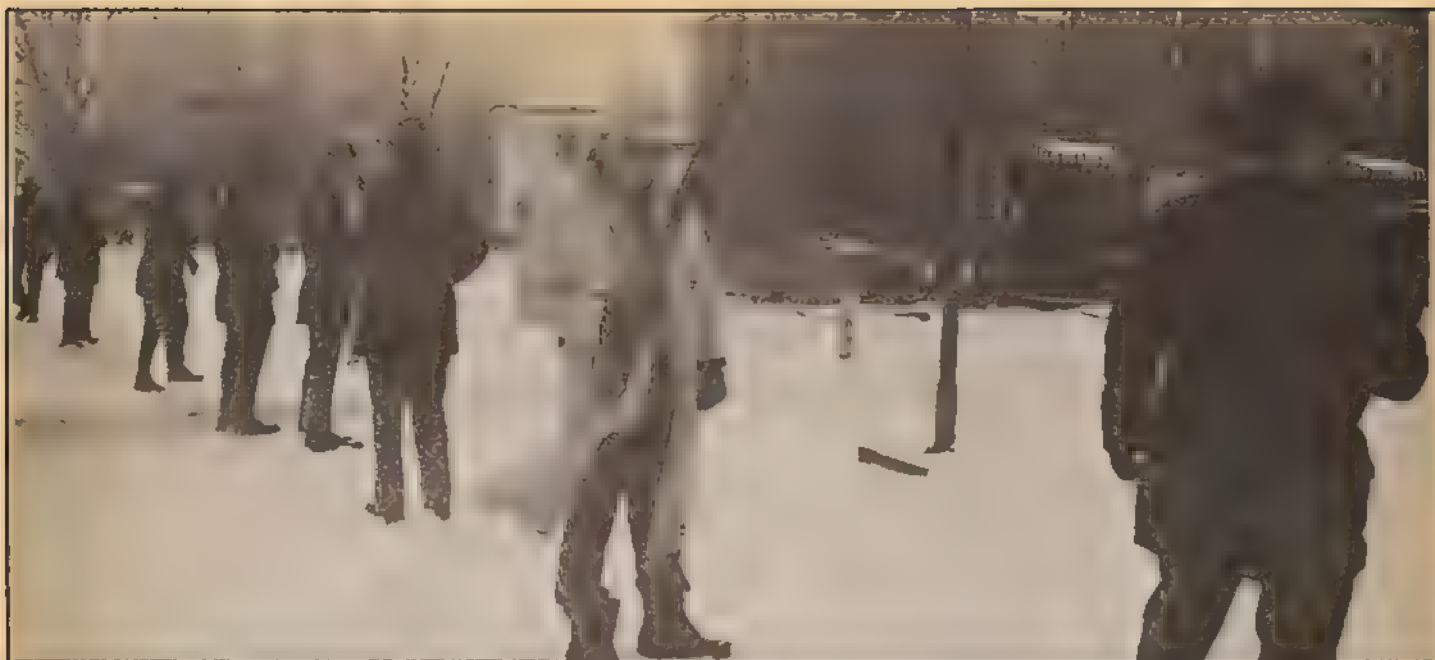
(Top Left) Whites demonstrate against Black marches and boycott; (Top Right) Sign-up table for White Citizens Council, downtown Cairo; (Bottom) Cairo's mayor, Al Moss, swings camera at Black youth.



United Front

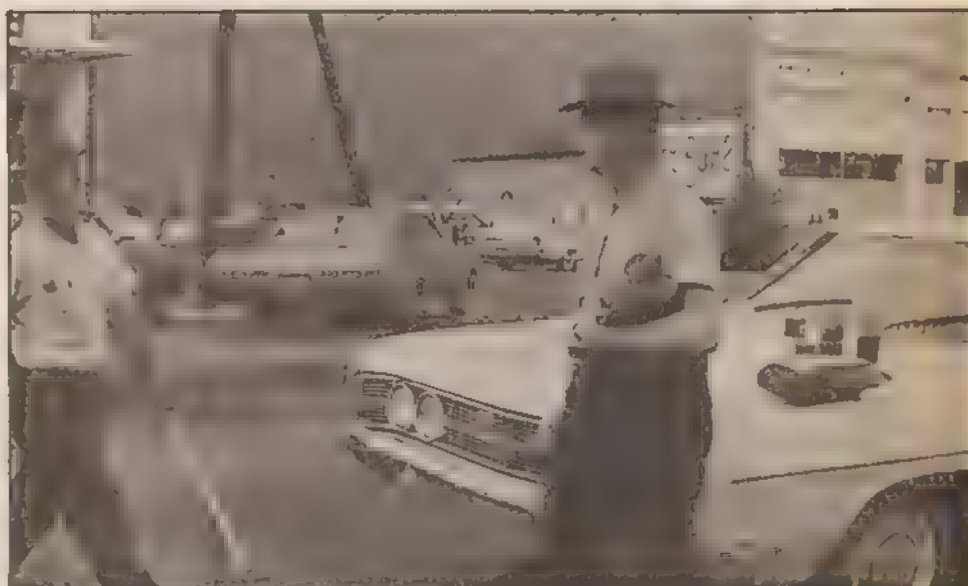


United Front



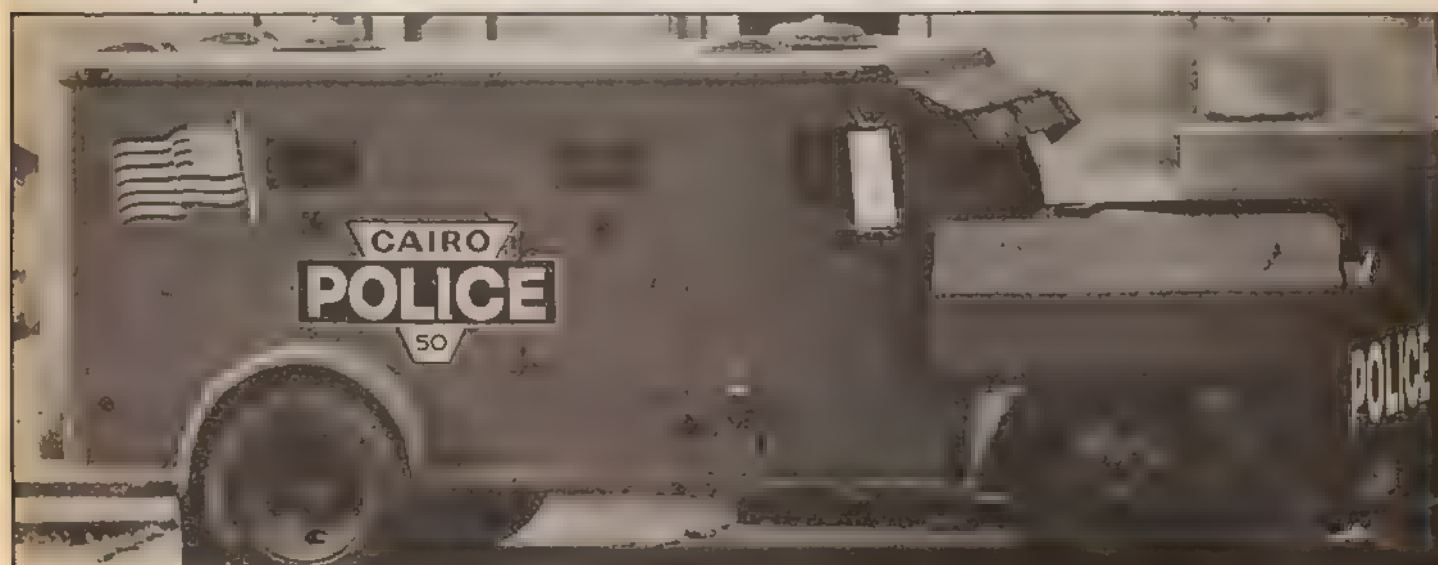
Carl Hampton

For years, the Cairo police harassed and brutalized Black people. Indeed, it was the actions of the police department that forced the Black community into the streets to seek justice. Now the police had a license to attack the community.

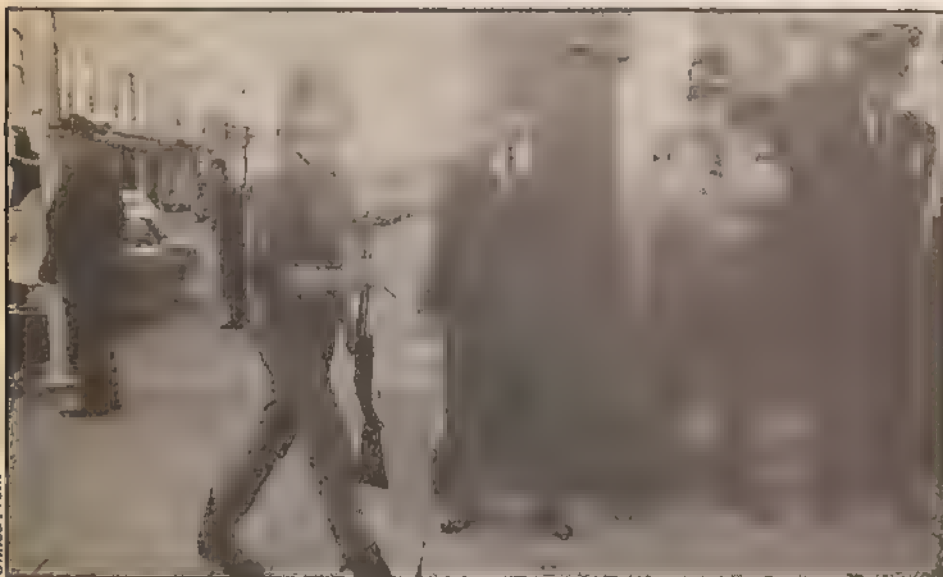
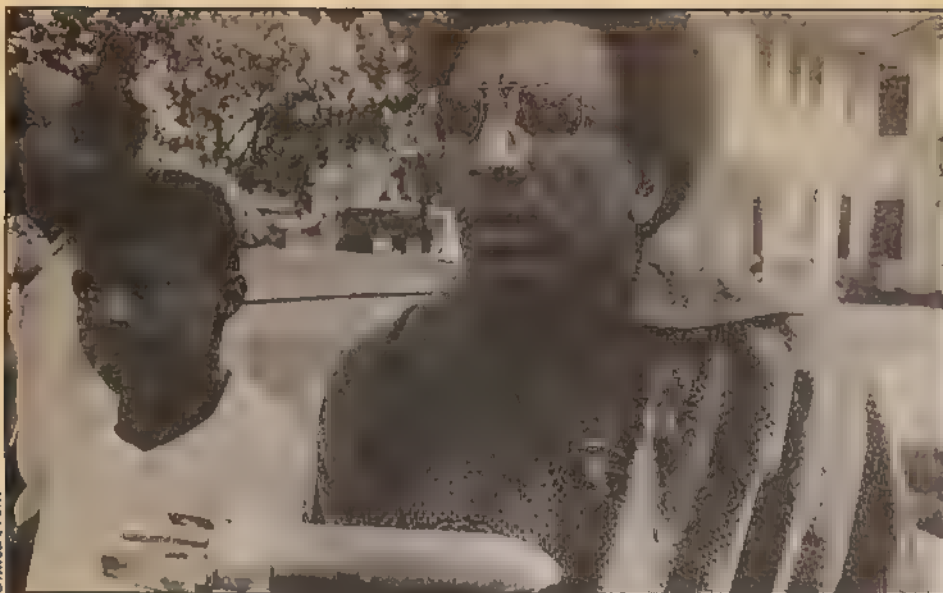


United Front

(Top) State police raid Pyramid Courts for guns. Raid is ruled illegal in court. (Center) State policeman with tear gas cannister during 1970 march; (Bottom) Armored car belonging to Cairo Police Department.



Preston Ewing, Jr



Jim Brown

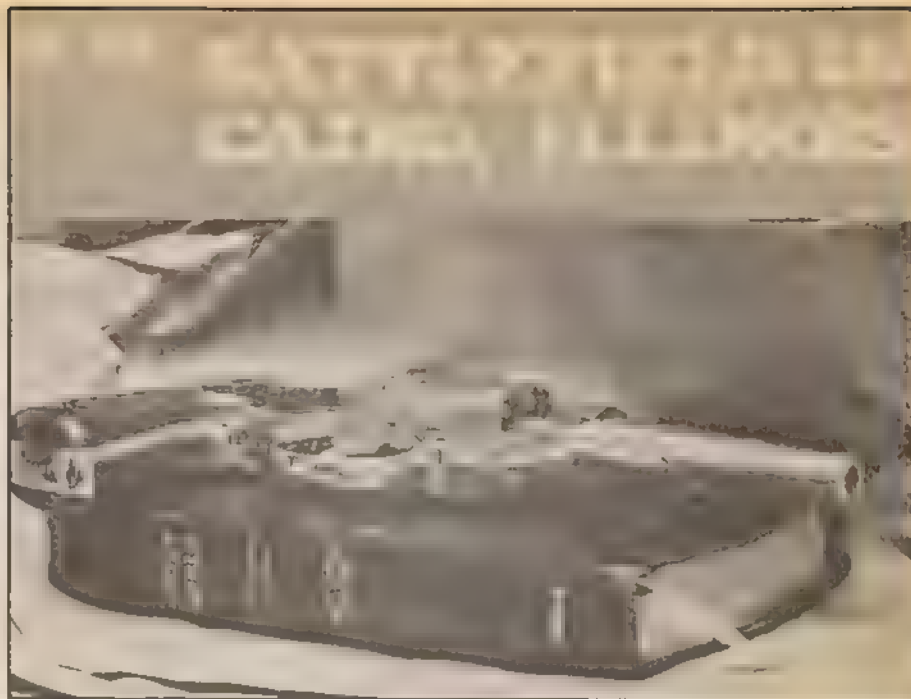


The violence did not end with the arrival of the police. A group known as the "White Hats" took matters into their own hands. Organized to "maintain law and order," they carried shotguns and automatic weapons to intimidate the resistant Black people.



(Top Left) Reverend Koen displays missile that failed to explode. (Top Right) White vigilante, downtown Cairo; (Center Left) Man inspecting bullet-riddled car; (Center Right) Sniper caught off guard by photographer; (Bottom) Tavern in Black community after armed attack.

On April 7, 1969, the United Front initiated a boycott of business in Cairo. The boycott lasted for two years. It devastated Cairo's business district and ultimately broke the back of organized racism in Cairo.

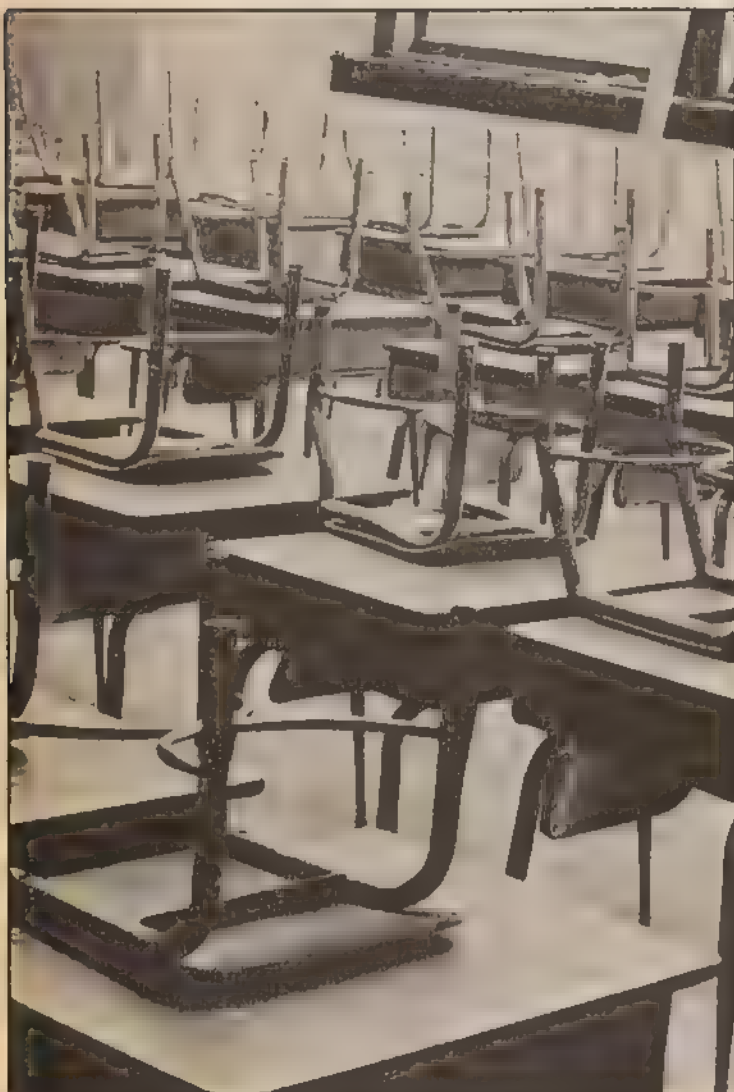


(Top) Cover of album recorded by United Front; (Bottom) Boycott of Cairo businesses, December 8, 1970. Arrow points to future police commissioner.



Carl Hampton

Banks grab control of schools for 30 years



Empty classrooms ahead

School superintendent Angeline Caruso has announced the closing of 35 Chicago public schools. Private banks, through the School Finance Authority, will control 40.5 percent of Chicago's real estate taxes for the next 30 years.

**Budget cuts total
\$220 million,
35 schools to close**

News Analysis

CHICAGO — A School Finance Authority, composed of city and suburban businessmen, will direct the development of public education in Chicago for the next 30 years.

The Finance Authority, established by the state legislature in early January on the recommendations of Governor James Thompson, was an important part of an \$800 million "2nd mortgage" clamped around Chicago's schools and taxpayers in December and January. Before the loan is repaid, the interest will exceed \$200 million.

Working through Thompson and the state legislature, the banks that stand to make as much as \$1.50 on every dollar they lend the schools, were

Continued on next page

Say good-bye to Cook County Hospital

Chicago's wealthiest family, the Pritzkers, have received hospital contract. Page 37

Uptown groups blast lopsided appointments to UCC

Coalition charges 11 out of 15 seats are filled from real estate front group. Page 39

Chicago City News

able to bypass Chicago's school board and city council.

Sixteen-year school board member Louise Malis raised a number of questions about the Finance Authority. She told the *Chicago Defender*, "Before I can approve the FOC (the Finance Authority was first called the Financial Oversight Committee), I must know where its responsibilities will be, who will be on it and if its members will be aware of the children's needs."

Jerome Van Gorkom, chairman of the Finance Authority, answered those questions for KEEP STRONG, "The Financial Oversight Committee will have whatever authority the financial community thinks it needs to do the job. The

people who have to be satisfied are the people who lend money to the school board. The Financial Over-

The bankers made the terms of their \$800 million loan clear — \$220 million in cuts, 35 schools closed and 2,000 school employees laid off

sight Committee would have control and supervise the budgeting and selection of the chief financial officer."

Weeks before the board was

named, the bankers made the terms of their loan clear to all. Funding cuts to reduce the Board of Education's budget were necessary immediately, \$220 million dollars worth. Thirty-five (35) schools will close and 2,000 teachers will be laid off for starters.

For over a year, Chicago's top banks worked to bring the schools to the crisis point. Their main consideration was their own falling financial position. A high percentage of loans in 1978-1979 were at a fixed interest rate while the costs of deposits continued to climb. Giant First National Bank of Chicago, second largest in the city (10th in the country) suffered the decline in profits as much or more than the rest. They reported a profit of \$97.9 million for the first nine months of 1979, a skimpy increase of only \$100,000 over the same period one year ago. Shrinking profits forced the bankers to begin looking around for a "collective capital boost" (a quick shot of money.) A takeover of the Board of Education's finances offered the banks direct access to the incomes from the Boards real estate and taxes.

The Board of Education's dependency on short-term (one year) borrowing to meet its yearly budget dates back to 1916. In a recent issue of *Weekly Review*, Mary Herrick, author of a book on Chicago's schools, explains how the dependency began. "Up to 1915, the school property tax collected in one year was spent the next year... But the 1914 taxes were not sufficient to pay 1915 expenses. The School Board used the 1915 taxes. That, however, meant there wasn't enough 1915 tax revenues left to cover 1916 expenses. The Board began to issue tax warrants as

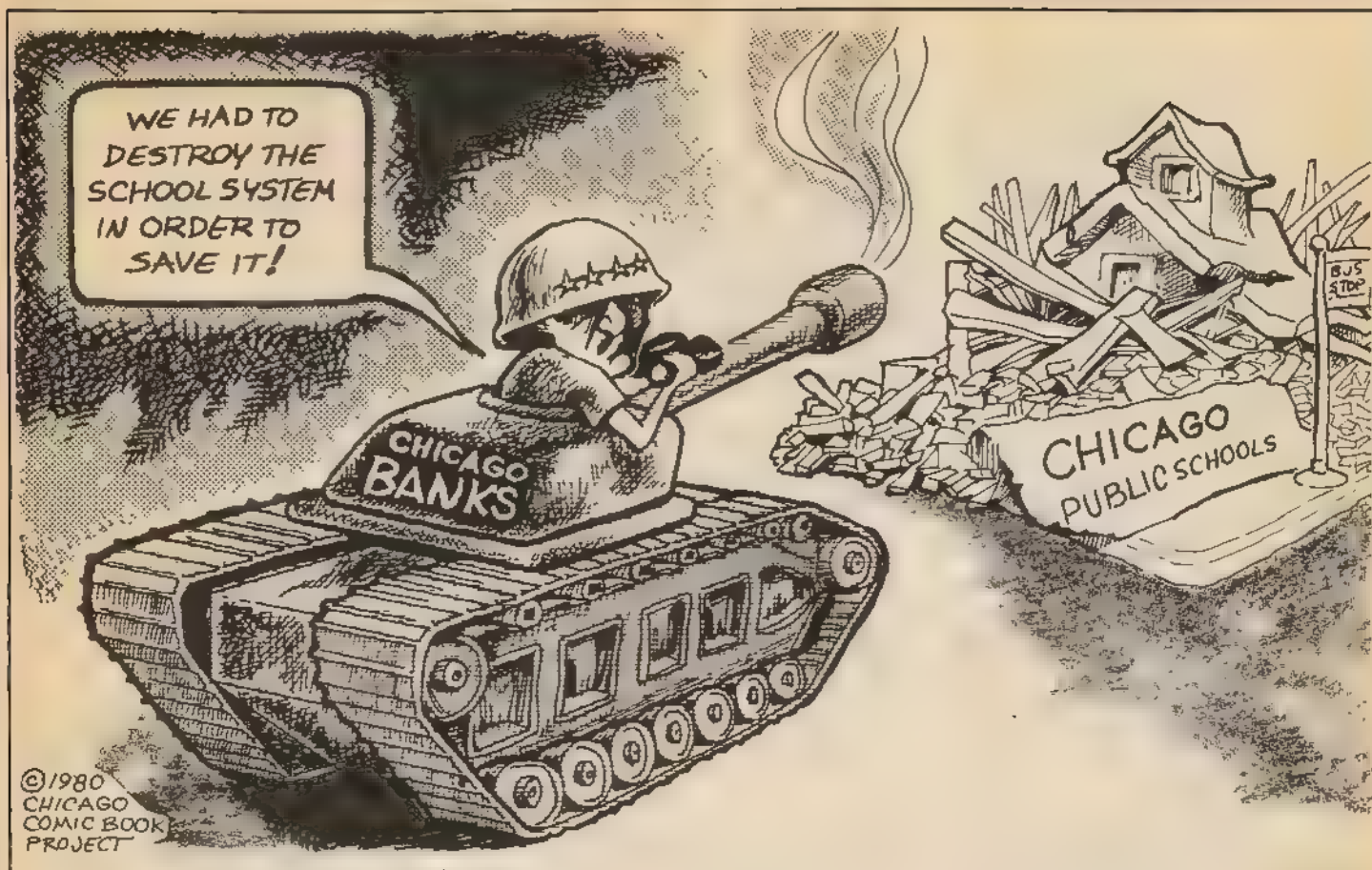
City schools and facilities slated for closing.

The following are Chicago schools, school branches and other facilities that have been singled out for closing:

Armstrong Special Education, 5400 W. Harrison
Austin High Branch, 5800 W. Washington
Bartelme Branch of Armstrong, 1914 W. Loyola
Barton Branch, 7801 S. Wolcott
Birney, 120 N. Wood
Bryant, 1355 S. Kedvale
Carter Branch, 225 E. 57th
Crerar Branch of Hancock, 8445 S. Kolin
Crelger Voc. High, 1820 W. Grenshaw
District 4 office, 118 N. Central
District 8 office, 211 S. Kildare
District 10 warehouse, 31st and Kedzie
District 12 warehouse, 45th and Tripp
District 16 office, 1234 W. 95th
District 18 office, 1833 W. 95th
District 22 office, 1750 E. 71st
Drake EVG Center, 2641 S. Calumet
Dunne Branch in District 20
Earle Branch, Joplin Annex, 7931 S. Honore
Edison Branch, Edison School Annex, 5815 N. Ottawa
Felsenthal, 4101 S. Calumet
Forest Glen Branch of Farnsworth School, 4910 W. Bryn Mawr

Gladstone, 1231 S. Damen
Goldsmith Branch of Burnham, 10211 S. Crandon
Headley, resource center, 2107 N. Magnolia
Industrial Skills Center, 2815 W. 19th
Lawson, 1256 S. Homan
Moseley, 5700 S. Lafayette
Mulligan, 1855 N. Sheffield
Potomac warehouse in District 5
Roentgen EVG, 15 S. Homan
Ross (old section), 5029 S. Wabash
Shepard, 2839 W. Filmore
Simpson Family Living Center, 1112 S. Hoyne
Sousa (District 9 office) 225 S. Aberdeen
Stock Branch of Ebinger, 7507 Birchwood
Talcott Branch, 524 N. Wolcott
Thomas Center, 1445 W. Belden
Thorp EVG Center, 8903 S. Burley
Von Humboldt 7th-8th Grade Cycle
Warren (old building), 9239 S. Jeffrey
West Garfield Upper Grade Center, 4322 W. Madison
Willard, 4915 S. St. Lawrence

Chicago City News



security for bank loans to be repaid when future taxes were collected..."

The yearly borrowing continued until November 1979. On November 15, the School Board tried to sell \$124.6 million in short-term notes. This time the banks would walk away. Moody's and Standard and Poor would drop the Board's bond rating to a "mig-4" (below market level) within hours. The schools were now in a real crisis. \$100 million in payrolls were around the corner, commercial suppliers (milk companies, food services, bus companies) and creditors were demanding payments for goods and services rendered, but the Board had no cash.

Supposedly, what set the whole thing off was four words that appeared on page 22 of the Boards

prospectus offering the sale of \$124.6 million in notes in November. The full sentence seemed rather harmless, "Since 1973 the Board's operating funds have been financed in part, through interfund cash borrowings from other funds and accounts, including restricted cash accounts designed for payment of issued and outstanding general obligation notes."

The use of money from "restricted cash accounts," the bankers said, was illegal. They expressed shock, anger and surprise and said they felt like they had been betrayed, when they "learned" of the misuse of restricted cash funds. Van Gorkom, a suburban banker, businessman and Economic Development Commission committee member, explained the Board has "lost its credibility (with the financial community), namely it

can't borrow money."

But the restricted cash fund discussion appears to be a smokey screen with a quick glance at the Board's annual financial reports (furnished every year to all investors, investment counselors, brokers and raters.) Reports, every year dating back to 1973 clearly state, "...cash overdrafts...represents unrecorded interfund borrowings from other funds, including restricted cash accounts." The sudden discussion of "mishandling funds" was a ploy to force the seizure of the second largest school system in the country.

The conditions had been ripening for years. The Board of Education's quarter billion dollar real estate empire loses more than \$100 million a year. Tenants like Inland Steel Corporation and Con-

Chicago City News

Who's Who On The School Finance Authority

Five Chicago financiers were named to serve on the School Finance Authority.

Jerome W. Van Gorkom — Van Gorkom, 62, of Lake Forest, is chairman of the giant Trans-Union Corporation. He was appointed by Mayor Byrne in November to head the school financial oversight committee. Van Gorkom serves as a member of the Economic Development Commission's commercial attraction committee.

Jean Allard — Allard, 55, is a Chicago attorney who sits on the boards of the following corporations: LaSalle National Bank, Commonwealth Edison, Maremont Corporation and Marshall Field.

Walter H. Clark — Clark, 51 is chief financial officer and executive vice-president of First Federal Savings and Loan Association, the largest in the state.

Jay A. Pritzker — Pritzker, 55, belongs to Chicago's wealthiest family. The Pritzkers' industrial and commercial empire is worth more than \$1 billion. (For more on the Pritzkers, see page 38).

Gordon D. Corey — Corey, 65, lives in Evanston and is former vice-president of Commonwealth Edison. He has been a director of Commonwealth Edison since 1965.

tinental Bank are paying the Board rents 50 percent to 67 percent lower than would be paid to a private landlord.

For years, the Board budgeted more than it received from taxes. Between 1972 and 1977, the schools lost more than \$274 million because large corporations like IBM, Aetna Life Insurance and Blythe, Eastman, Dillion (bond brokers) did not pay their taxes. If these companies paid their taxes on time the school budget would have a surplus of \$100 million.

Finally, in 1979, the corporate personal property tax (a tax on moveable property such as office equipment, furniture, machinery) was abolished. Pressure from the corporations, including the banks forced the state to abolish the tax. Removing the tax on cor-

be able to pay off its largest creditors.

In early January, when Eugene Keilin, Stephen Berger and Frank Raines of Lazard Freres; William B. James of Salomon Brothers; Phillip M. Peloquin and James Ruth of Merrill, Lynch, White and Weld (the three largest bond houses in the country); Herbert Johnson, John Perkins and Gordon MacDonald of Continental Bank; and Edwin Yeo III of First National Bank, emerged from two days of secret meetings in the Governor's mansion, they had a ticket to pick up \$800 million in notes from the Board of Education (including a jump in interest rates from 7 percent to 11 percent) and a mechanism (the Finance Authority) to collect the money directly from the taxpayers.

Not a single Black elected offi-

"The financial oversight committee will have whatever authority the financial community thinks it needs to do the job."

**— Jerome Van Gorkom
Chairman, School Finance Authority**



porate personal property, cut the taxable value of the corporations from \$12.8 billion to \$9.4 billion. When the schools borrow money from the banks in the future they'll have less collateral to borrow against. The schools' collateral is the anticipated income from taxes.

With a major portion of the Board's \$730 million debt in their hand, another \$260 million is owed to the Public Building Commission, in rentals (see KEEP STRONG, October, 1979.) The banks moved quickly in November to seize control of an investment that might not

cial or community leader was invited to participate in the \$800 million deal. Alderman Clifford Kelley (20th ward) voiced the anger shared by hundreds who attended a meeting in January to protest the creation of a school finance authority without public hearings. "We denounce the secrecy of the decision-making process as bankers, state and other non-elected persons joined together to seal the fate of Chicago's school children."

Black leaders have called for a full federal investigation of what led to the school financial crisis. □

Hyatt Empire To Run Cook County Hospital

CHICAGO— Hyatt Medical Enterprises, owned by the billion dollar Hyatt Corporation and controlled by Chicago's wealthiest family — the Pritzkers — has been awarded the contract to manage Cook County Hospital. At its meeting last month, the Cook County Board approved a proposal from Hyatt Medical to conduct an initial survey of the hospital for \$25,000. Control of Cook County Hospital, which has served Black and poor people in Chicago since the early 1920's, reverted to the hands of the Cook County Board in December, when the legislature abolished the Health and Hospitals Governing Commission.

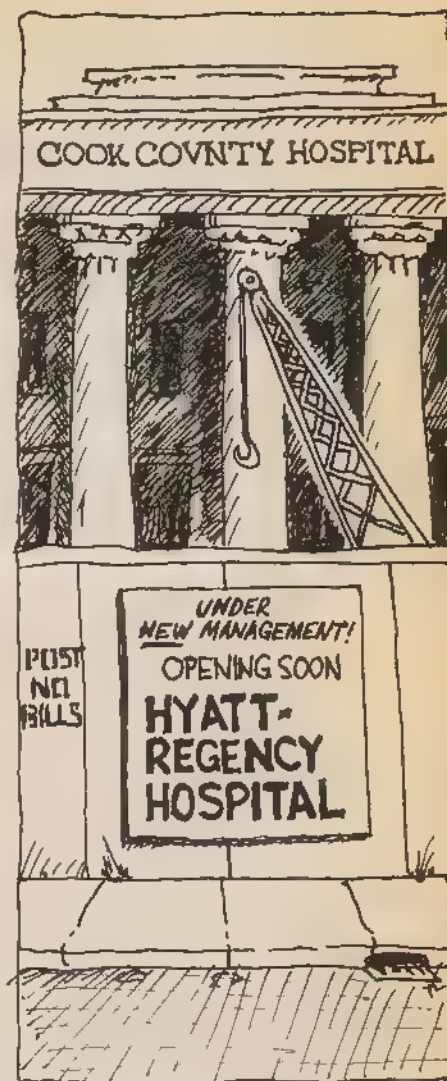
Eight other firms submitted bids, but County Board President George Dunne and other officials privately agreed that Hyatt's was "superior." The other major bidder for the contract was Hospital Affiliates, Inc. of Nashville, Tennessee, owned by the Insurance Company of North America.

The Hyatt proposal calls for a 40-day site survey of the hospital to determine the needs for staffing, maintenance and how to bring in more income from medicaid, medicare and other insurance payments. The initial survey will

cost the County \$25,000 but sources indicate that the total contract is close to a million dollars. Hyatt Medical currently manages 45 other hospitals in the country; Cook County Hospital will be their first in Illinois. Estimated annual sales for Hyatt Medical and the Hyatt Management Company in California top more than \$70 million a year.

Hyatt Medical is a subsidiary of Hyatt Corporation, internationally known for its hotel chain. Hyatt Corporation is owned and controlled by the Pritzkers, whose industrial and commercial holdings, estimated at more than \$1 billion, make them the wealthiest family in Chicago. Family patriarch, A.N. Pritzker, a Chicago attorney and financier, started the empire when he risked a Florida real estate deal in 1926. Today, Pritzker and his sons Robert and Jay oversee the family's industrial and commercial fortunes. In addition to Hyatt, the Pritzkers own more than half of Hyatt International which owns and operates hotels in 22 countries. Their tourist empire also includes Elsinore Corporation which operates gambling casinos.

The underpinning of the Pritzker's wealth is the Marmon Group, based in Chicago and headed by Bob Pritzker. Made up of multi-million dollar manufacturing and distribution firms, Marmon's more than \$1.4 billion annual sales range from copper rods and coal mining to famous Hammond organs. A recent acquisition of Marmon was the Cerro Corporation. Originally a copper mining firm in Latin America, Cerro's major assets were expropriated (taken over for public use) by Chile and Peru. The Pritzkers moved in and bought



up the remaining metalworking and wiremaking plants. One former Cerro official described the Pritzker take-over as a "steal." Marmon currently sits on an unused \$150 million credit line from Continental Bank and Citibank "which can be used for any purpose," *Crain's* reports.

Other major Pritzker holdings include lumber mills, more than 450,000 acres of timber and agricultural land in the Northwest, southern United States and Costa Rica. Their publishing and printing interests include McCall's, W.F. Hall Printing Company (recently sold), and about half of National

Chicago City News

The Pritzker Fortune

In January, Cook County Board President George Dunne announced that Hyatt Medical Enterprises of Encino, California had been awarded the contract to manage Cook County Hospital. Hyatt Medical belongs to the Hyatt Corporation, owned and controlled by Chicago's wealthiest family—the Pritzkers. Here are some key facts about the Pritzker fortune:

- Pritzker family wealth is estimated at more than \$1 billion.
- They own one-third of Centex Industrial Park in Elk Grove Village — the largest industrial park in the world.
- The Marmon Group — 50 manufacturing and distribution firms made close to \$2 billion in sales in 1979.
- Factories for Marmon Group Industries are worth \$135.4 million.
- Own half of National Textbook Company which publishes books for Chicago schools.
- Marmon has an unused \$150 million credit line from Continental Bank and Citibank "which can be used for any purpose."

Partial Listing of Pritzker-owned and controlled businesses:

Hyatt Corporation (hotel chain)

Hyatt International (hotels in 22 countries)

Hyatt Medical Enterprises (Calif.)

Elsinore Corporation (casino, gambling)

Cerro and Affiliates

Levitz Furniture Company

Marmon Group Inc. (Operates 35 subsidiaries)

Marmon Group (Chicago) — Owns 50 manufacturing/distribution firms, including Hammond Organ.

Textbook Company which publishes books for the Chicago schools. Pritzker real estate holdings include an industrial park in Elk Grove Village, 1,500 acres west of Waukegan and vast tracts of undeveloped land. Most recently, A.N. Pritzker, also a member of the powerful Economic Development Commission (EDC) in Chicago, announced he was investing in undeveloped land near Division and Halsted which the EDC wants for an industrial park. The develop-

ment is receiving federal funds from HUD.

The private take-over of the nation's largest public health care institution has brought resistance around the city.

The Community Board of the Uptown People's Health Center (UPHC) has brought suit in federal court against the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) and the Cook County Board. The suit seeks to "declare valid and binding an agreement"

signed between the health center Board and the Cook County Health and Hospitals Governing Commission in 1979. (The Governing Commission was disbanded under a state law that returned control of the hospital and its affiliate-clinics to the County Board last fall.) The plaintiffs, who are residents of the Uptown area state that they constitute a community board established 'under federal statute to manage and operate the center in a 'joint venture' with the Health and Hospitals Governing Commission or its successors. They contend that the County Board, with approval from HEW, has attempted to, "destroy the agreement and appropriate for their own use...the Uptown People's Health Center."

Behind the County Board's refusal to honor their contract Board spokespersons explain, "There is an attempt underway to disband the community's board and set up another one made up of middle-class activists, including representatives of the "much-hated Uptown Chicago Commission."

Plaintiffs in the suit see the move against community control of the board as "an attempt to make the health center, at Broadway and Lawrence, into an institution serving the medical interests of the Department of Medicine of Cook County Hospital rather than the medically underserved residents of the Uptown area. Within a few years, they explain, the city and county will merge their health care programs into a regional or metropolitan service. "They will be making cuts all over the place in the next few years and they (city and county governments) don't want to have a real community board around, when they are ready to reshape and close down our clinic." □

Blast UCC appointments — “Conservation Council lopsided”

CHICAGO — On December 18, 1979, the Board of the Department of Urban Renewal (DUR) routinely approved the DUR staff recommendations for the Uptown Community Conservation Council (CCC). This Council is supposed to monitor federal community development funds which are earmarked for the Uptown community. The final list submitted to the mayor was stacked (11 out of 15) with members of the Uptown Chicago Commission (UCC), an organization which has publically opposed any development of low or moderate-income housing in the Uptown area.

Representatives of over 30 Uptown organizations and human

service agencies were present at the board meeting to voice their disapproval of the nominated slate.

Helen Shiller, speaking on behalf of the Heart of Uptown Coalition, said: “I would like to point out to you that your list of nominations for the Uptown Community Conservation Council is not only unrepresentative, but insulting to the people of our community. It is, in fact, stacked with a majority of nominees who belong to a single organization which has virtually no membership in the Conservation area. More important than its lack of membership however, is the public opposition of this organization, the Uptown Chicago Commission, to any

housing assistance programs to provide low and moderate-income housing in the Uptown Conservation area. That this could be a representative position of Uptown area residents, 90 percent of whom are renters with low and moderate incomes, is patently absurd. The nomination of only two minority nominees from an area which is close to 50 percent minority in composition is not only an insult, it is illegal!”

Similar statements of disapproval were voiced by the Edgewater Uptown Human Services Coalition representing over 25 organizations, the St. Thomas Spanish Community Center, Prologue High School,

Jack Hart, director of the Heart of Uptown Coalition, speaking at DUR board meeting in December. More than 30 Uptown groups blasted the appointment of 11 UCC members to the Uptown Conservation Council.



Chicago City News

and the Housing Resource Center of Hull House.

The UCC, founded in 1955 by Combined Insurance magnate Clement Stone and other businessmen, claims to be a non-profit, service organization. But, in fact, the UCC has been serving as a front for a group of North Side real estate operators, bankers, speculators and developers for over a dozen years (see KEEP STRONG, December-January, 1980.)

In its latest moves to displace low and moderate-income people from Uptown, the UCC has proposed a study of private and public social service agencies in Uptown. The UCC wants "statistics" to back up its belief that Uptown is "innundated" with social service agencies. The study was first suggested last fall when the UCC opposed the Sheridan-Ainslie housing project, a federally subsidized development which would provide 110 units of low and moderate-income housing to residents in Uptown and Edgewater. The UCC filed a lawsuit to stop the project. UCC President

Tom Schmitz stated then, "Unless you use statistics to back up your opinions you can't argue with the government."

The UCC also recently opposed the relocation of the Department of Human Services Center at 901 Montrose, to an office building at Broadway and Wilson. The Center, which offers GED classes, emergen-

Eleven out of 15 nominees to the Uptown Conservation Council come from the Uptown Chicago Commission which opposes any more low or moderate income housing in Uptown.

cy food programs and an employment service, has been forced to relocate as the result of developer William Thompson's Pensacola Project at Broadway and Montrose. The UCC felt that the Broadway-Wilson area already had "too many" social service programs.

The UCC wants a New York City firm, Kane Parsons, to come in and conduct the study but needs a grant to finance the study. They asked Continental Bank for a grant, but they were turned down. However, Continental did give the UCC \$2,500 for general operating expenses.

KEEP STRONG has learned that at least one major private foundation in Chicago is delaying grants to community organizations in Uptown until the UCC study is done. The Chicago Community Trust, sent letters out to several Uptown groups which applied for money and told them that no decisions would be made on their proposals until March. Their letter said that the Trust was doing an "assessment" of the needs of the community. However, reliable sources indicate that pressure is being brought on the Trust and other private foundations by the UCC not to fund any non-profit community organizations in Uptown until the preliminary study is done. □

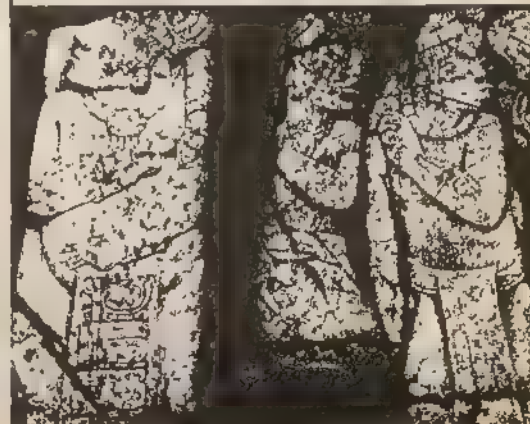
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CTA Workers Overpaid? Budget Shows Big \$ To CTA Bosses

CHICAGO — Charges of "greed" and overpayment surrounded the Chicago transit workers' four-day strike in the end of December.

The strike ended as abruptly as it started when a circuit court ordered the union's 12,000 members back to work.

Employees went out on Monday, December 17, after city and CTA negotiators tried to remove benefits from the contract. Only one week before that, a compromise had been reached between the mayor and the union on the controversial 'Cost-of-Living Adjustment' clause issue. Negotiations were halted in early December, when CTA representatives stood firm in their position that the transit authority could no longer afford to pay the quarterly adjustment (since 1954 the union contract has called for the CTA to increase pay, to keep up with the inflation rate, every three months.) The arrangement calls for cost-of-living adjustments twice a year.

CTA chairman Eugene Barnes spoke for the city and the CTA in denouncing the strike and labeling the workers "greedy." He produced payroll statistics identifying over 100 CTA 'operations personnel' (trainmen, bus drivers, maintenance men) who earned between \$25,000 and \$50,000 a year. Barnes specifically mentioned one man who had made over \$48,000 in 1979. The press (the four major television stations as well as Chicago's two daily newspapers) picked up the snappy figures that appeared to indict the



CTA bus drivers on strike in December — Management said they could not afford a cost-of-living increase, but the CTA budget shows that waste and mismanagement costs \$20 million.

union membership. The media used the statistics repeatedly and called for an immediate end to the strike.

But a look at the CTA's overall budget raises serious questions about many of Chairman Barnes' charges of overpayment. A comparison of CTA labor force figures, from 1968 to 1978, reveals an increase in the ratio of employees to vehicles, as well as a 1,000-person increase in the number of overall employees. In the same time period,

the number of CTA vehicles went down by 800. Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) researchers are quick to point out that the increase in the total number of employees and the employee per vehicle ratio was not due to a swelling of the number of people working directly in operations (serving the riders and public in general.) Their figures indicate that the increase was in "administrative, supervisory and general office personnel."

The ATU cited the 1979 cut in

the number of rapid transit stations from 208 to 135, the 1960's elimination of the CTA police force, and the introduction of technology, as causing the significant reductions in the number of operations employees.

Under the direction of former CTA chairman Milton Pikarsky, the transit authority was reorganized in 1974. Among other things, the reorganization produced a new battery of area and assistant area superintendents and staff. Union sources place the cost of the new superintendents at over \$1 million a year, but haven't been able to determine exactly what the new supervisors supervise. The area offices, not to be confused with the district offices that supervise street operations and transit service, are supposed to handle employee discipline and some personnel matters. However, union records show that during a recent four-month period

Forty-five top CTA executives get their own personal cars bought, gassed, repaired and insured at CTA expense.

(February through May, 1979) a total of 90 disciplinary cases were handled by the four offices — one case per office, every three days. CTA figures comparing the number of desk or 'general office' jobs between 1954 and 1978 show an increase of 207 of those positions. The 1974 reorganization also increased the number of departmental units from 126 to 172.

Another item in the budget that causes questions is the "executive automobile." Forty-five (45) top-level CTA executives are assigned

personal automobiles. Each car is "bought, gassed, repaired and insured at CTA expense," according to the union, at a cost of \$4,000 per year.

More costly, damaging and less excusable, are the losses due to injuries and the subsequent workman's compensation costs. Union figures for 1976 to 1978, show an increase in the number of total injuries reported (from 1,747 cases in 1976 to 2,605 in 1978); an increase in the number of injuries classified as 'lost time' cases (1,178 in 1976 to 2,147 cases in 1978); and an increase in days lost due to injury of 18,000 (33,471 days lost in 1976 and 51,879 days lost in 1978.) Union spokesmen believe that a 2/3 reduction in on-the-job injuries, possible only through a vigilant safety program, could save the CTA \$3.3 million per year.

Finally, CTA 'area payroll data' figures for 1978, reveal a top-heavy bureaucracy employing 25 people in public affairs, 103 people in a department named 'Human Relations' and 755 people in the finance office. The annual cost of these positions is over \$16 million a year.

The union's position, that all 45 executive automobiles, the positions of 39 area superintendents and assistant area superintendents could be eliminated without slowing the trains and buses, could save the CTA as much as \$2 million a year. Their call for an intensified on-the-job safety program to reduce injury by 50 percent could save another \$2.5 million a year. All these factors added together would put the actual figures for waste and mismanagement in the CTA budget above \$20 million a year, or enough money to pay each of the CTA's 12,000 employees an additional \$1,500 a year. □

Paymaster — Strike Broken Struggle Not Over

CHICAGO — The strike at Paymaster was broken, Friday, January 11th. For the last 10 weeks, strikers had walked the picket line in cold weather, from 6:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and had stayed out on strike over the holidays, even though they had families to support. The strike, involving almost 300 workers, was the first in the history of the 50-year-old company. Located at 1811 W. Winnemac, Paymaster manufactures check-writing machines used by banks and businesses.

The workers belong to the United Auto Workers (UAW), Local 2087. Their main demands included paid insurance and a cost-of-living increase. Since new owners took over the company, (see KEEP STRONG Dec.-Jan., 1980) a list of grievances had been building rapidly at the plant. A lack of communication between the management and the workers prompted workers to organize a union which was certified on January 15th, 1979. While the company delayed contract negotiations for seven months, they were working people overtime and stockpiling their inventory. Finally, employees caught up in the inflation crunch, went out on strike October 24th. Their last pay raise was over a year ago.



In the early morning hours Chicago police wagon arrives at Paymaster leading procession of buses carrying strikebreakers. "There is no way outside of violence that you could stop this busing....So you stand there with your picket sign on and the bus goes in....After ten weeks it's a hard pill to swallow...We gave it a good try."

During the 10-week strike the company refused to negotiate with the union. The strike reached a complete stalemate. Finally, in a last-ditch, desperate effort to break the strike, the company started busing scabs into the plant early Monday morning, January 7th.

According to Sandy Grathouse, a Paymaster employee for 27 years and chairperson of the union's negotiating committee, the company started busing in the strike breakers with police protection. Everyday the scabs came — accompanied by six or seven police cars and a police wagon. Sandy describes the strikebreaking.

"They have guards with the buses. They've been coming in everyday this week, into the parking lot and they'd bring them right up to the door. The first day there was about 15...by Thursday, 38

people came in. On Friday, January 11th they brought in two bus loads. I don't know how many got in. They were all employees. We are losing some of our rank-and-file members. I guess they just figure they've been out too long.

In the last ditch effort to break the strike, the company started busing scabs into the plant on January 7th with police protection

"There is no way outside of violence that you could stop this busing and we have never preached violence. So you stand there with your picket sign on and the bus goes in.

"It's really a stacked deck. Everything is on their side. They have the bus, the guards and the police. The police have been very,

very rude. The buses came in from Foster Avenue. They were parked across from the Foster Avenue police station at the Standard gas station. That's where the people got on. I don't know who the guards were. They didn't have uniforms on. There were a couple in each car and one on each bus. There was a lead police car in front of the bus and a car behind the bus. One was a like a little pick-up truck and one was a green car."

On Friday January 11th the union called a meeting to vote whether or not to go back. On the day of the election Sandy told KEEP STRONG: "We were informed yesterday if we are out on strike we don't get to vote in the election. So we are leaving it up to the people to vote today on which way they want to go."

On January 11th a majority of the rank-and-file members of the UAW voted to go back to work

LABOR

Monday, January 14th, Sandy Grathouse speaks with pride as the historic Paymaster strike ends, but is bitter about the tactics used against the striking workers:

"After ten weeks it's a hard pill to swallow. But you can't fight city hall. You can't fight the police. You can't fight the bus. The only right we had is to walk up and down the street peacefully with a picket sign. But when they bus people in with armed guards and everything, there's nothing you can do. The law is on their side. You have to realize when to quit."

Sandy Grathouse explained that

the union's year certification is up in January and that if 85 people sign a petition to de-certify the union, then the Labor Board will very likely hold another election.

But the fight of the Paymaster workers for a living wage is not over. "If nothing else, the company should have gotten the message," says Sandy Grathouse. "The majority of workers are very dissatisfied. We hope we got that message through. We will know in the future. We gave it a good try."□

Bev King writes for KEEP STRONG and attends Shimer College.

UFW Victory —No More Red Coach Lettuce At Dominick's

CHICAGO — "Community support was one of the biggest factors in getting Dominick's to clear their shelves of Red Coach lettuce," said Oscar Mondragon of the United Farm Workers Union (UFW). "Over 100 community organizations joined in the UFW's campaign to clear Dominick's Food Stores of Bruce Church, Inc.'s scab lettuce." Community groups helped out by sending letters to Dominick's President Robert D'Amato, calling Dominick's executive offices and checking different stores for pricing and food dating violations."

Bruce Church, Inc. has been steadfast in their refusal to nego-

tiate new contracts with the UFW, although the UFW is recognized by California state law as the official bargaining representative of oppressed farmworkers. Other lettuce growers, including the nation's largest grower, Sunharvest, have signed contracts. Bruce Church and other growers have refused to bargain since the UFW went out on strike last January. Mondragon said the lengthy strike has emptied the union's strike fund and that a lot depends on the goodwill of the people.

Dominick's operates more than 80 stores in the Chicago area. Their decision to not carry Red Coach lettuce is definitely a big victory. The Farm Workers are determined now to move on Jewel Food Stores.

Mondragon said, "We're not going to play with them, we're going to let them have it. If they refuse to cooperate we will ask people not to shop there." Mondragon feels that Jewel will give in this month with another concentrated effort from the communities. "After all, people make Jewel the place where people go to shop."□

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Milwaukee — Ashland Group Charges Rubloff Stole Community Plan

By Bev King

CHICAGO — A group of Latino businessmen in West Town have charged that millionaire developer Arthur Rubloff and the city of Chicago stole their plans for a community shopping mall. Area residents and businessmen have united to demand at least part-ownership of the \$15 million shopping center proposed by the city.

Last year a group of Latino businessmen formed the West Town Economic Development Corporation (WTEDC). With a grant from the Department of Human Services to assist area merchants, WTEDC recruited over 60 area businessmen, held seminars on community development and did a study which showed the need for commercial development along Milwaukee Avenue, from Ashland to Damen. The group talked to local merchants about developing a shopping mall there and contacted Wieboldt's about buying their vacant store, which closed five years ago. Wieboldt's assured the group they could wait to purchase the building while they raised money for the first down payment.

WTEDC director Antonio Irizarry told KEEP STRONG they wanted to do a study first so they could present their plans to city and federal agencies. "We contacted Arthur Rubloff and Company to do the study. Just before the study was released we saw a new sign on the vacant Wieboldt's store saying that Arthur Rubloff and Company,

Latino businessmen say Arthur Rubloff and the city stole their study and plans for a community shopping mall at Milwaukee-Ashland.



Antonio Irizarry (above), director of WTEDC. Local businesses (below) want part-ownership in the \$15 million shopping center.



not Wieboldt's was handling the sale of the building."

The study showed the Milwaukee-Ashland area had enormous potential to be a successful commercial shopping district. In October, Mayor Byrne announced in the newspapers, plans for a \$15 million shopping mall at Milwaukee-Ashland.

Irizarry said they found out Rubloff had sold the building to Gerald R. Fogelson, one of the nation's biggest developers. Fogelson formed a front corporation with the name "West Town Development Corporation." Rubloff acted as the broker for the sale.

Shortly before official plans were announced by the city last October, Alderman Terry Gabinski (32nd) and the developer Fogelson called a meeting at a local church. Six people attended. The meeting was stacked with precinct captains, and officials from the ward office. David Skora, now on the Planning Commission, and Harry Sikorski (former public relations man for developer Harry Chaddick) and now head of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods also attended. They said their role was to "see what the community thought about the proposal."

Mayor Byrne's plan was not what community businessmen and residents had originally envisioned. The city's plan, which called for a Jewel-Osco; a parking lot and other stores on land near the mall, required the demolition of 59 residential and commercial buildings in the



property there; the rest are brick and stone." Mrs. Ramos says the planning department inspectors were telling everybody that the buildings were very nice. "How does that relate to the fact that the city wants to tear them down?"

The city insists that 61 percent of the buildings are deteriorated and 91 percent dilapidated. BASSA has requested that the planning department give them a building-by-building breakdown of what's wrong with the buildings. Mrs. Ramos says that "We've been calling Commissioner Martin Murphy every day. He doesn't respond. We suspect they can't substantiate those figures." Meanwhile, BASSA has offered an alternative plan to avoid displacing tenants.

WTEDC wants to be part-owners of the mall which is now owned by Fogelson. They feel Rubloff, Fogelson and the city stole the community's original idea and the study the group paid for. WTEDC wants to keep Jewel-Osco out and have a co-

area bounded by Milwaukee, Ashland, Blackhawk and Paulina. The proposed development would displace tenants in over 100 apartments in 30 buildings. To obtain federal funds to demolish the buildings, the property would have to be condemned by the city and declared "blighted." Irizarry sees it as "the city's way of helping Fogelson to obtain the land he needs for the chain grocery store and parking lot."

Area residents oppose the city's plans to demolish their homes. Mrs. Pat Ramos, President of BASSA which represents residents in the neighborhood near the Bethlehem and St. Stanislaus churches claims the city "knew nothing about the neighborhood" when they made their plans. "They (the planning department) had driven around the neighborhood, down the streets and looked at the buildings. They described the existing situation very inaccurately. They said most of the buildings on Ashland were in frame structures. There is only one frame

The city wants to declare these homes "blighted" and tear them down to make way for the mall. Pat Ramos (Below, Left), president of BASSA and Carmen Gonzales (Below, Right) oppose the demolition. Ms. Gonzales — "It's not right to be displaced, moved and forced to pay more rent."



op of Latino merchants run a supermarket. WTEDC feels that by allowing Fogelson to develop the project the consumers will suffer.

plan forced the planning department to postpone its decision to declare the district a "blighted commercial area" a second time at hear-

attorney to direct the mall.) They say, "Yes, you can have some participation.' But this is just until all the hearings are over so that we won't give them so much opposition."

Mrs. Carmen Gonzales has lived in the neighborhood for ten years. She sums up the community's angry opposition to the proposed Milwaukee-Ashland shopping center: "I don't think they should tear down perfectly good houses. It's just not right to be displaced, moved and forced to pay more rent. The city says we have 'transient' tenants on this block. But many neighborhood residents, 60-65, have lived here all their lives." Pat Ramos adds, "We are going to keep fighting. They have no right to come in and declare these homes 'blighted.' It is totally undemocratic."□

The developers and the city called a meeting to find out "what the community thinks about the plan" and stacked the meeting with precinct captains and ward officials.

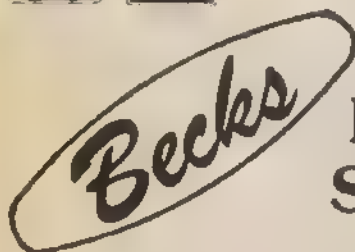
"Rent in the new mall stores will be as high or higher than any suburban shopping center," Irizarry says. "The only ones who can afford the rent will be national chain stores and the people in the neighborhood won't be able to afford to buy things."

Community opposition to the

ings in January. After the first postponement, in December, there were two suspicious fires in the area. Planning Department head Martin Murphy has told the group he will come out and meet with them before the next hearings. "They're being smart with us," Irizarry said. (They hired a young Puerto Rican



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Hyde Park Tenants Oppose Co-op Conversion

By Ralph Scott

CHICAGO — 810 Grace is not the only HUD-assisted co-op conversion being attempted in Chicago. The low and moderate income tenants of a 33-unit, three story walk-up at 54th Street and Ellis Avenue, in predominantly Black West Hyde Park, discovered last September developers had bought their building six months earlier with secret plans for a co-op conversion.

Serious deterioration caused by past landlords' neglect had to be re-

versed before the building could be marketed as a co-op, and the developers sought the same HUD mortgage insurance program being used at 810 Grace to cover all their costs. The tenants soon found out that the projected costs for their post-conversion apartments were higher than current rents and that developers had no plans to prevent their displacement. A tenants association formed to fight back.

The developers at 54th and Ellis are Lawrence Rosser and Clifford Treese, president and vice-

president, respectively, of their new company, Metropolitan Resources Group. Rosser is former director of the Woodstock Institute, a housing research group, and a member of the board of directors of the Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference (HPKCC). Treese is president of the South Side Condominium and Cooperative Owners Association, and this fall he was elected president of the HPKCC. In 1978, the previous HPKCC president, Gail Wilson, was discovered by tenant activists to be a secret partner in



Barbara Matthews (left), Elizabeth Watson and young friends all live in the building at 54th and Ellis which private developers want to convert to a co-op with HUD money. Ms. Matthews, president of the tenants' group opposing the conversion says, "It's just a ploy to get low-income people, especially Blacks, out of the Hyde Park area."



54th and Ellis (left) in Hyde Park and 810 Grace (right) on the north side are both targeted for co-op conversion by developers who want to use the HUD mortgage insurance program to cover costs. Tenants discovered that rents in the co-op apartments will be much higher.

a Hyde Park condo conversion which displaced low and moderate-income tenants in 61 out of 63 apartments converted.

About three years ago, a committee of the HPKCC known as the CHOICE Task Force obtained approximately \$30,000 from the Ford Foundation and Talman Savings and Loan to write a manual on rehabilitating multi-family buildings with conventional financing, to provide decent low and moderate-income housing. Rosser was chairman of the task force.

The grant money was spent, the groundwork for the manual was completed, but the task force dissolved without completing the manual. A draft of this manual provides a technical guide for evaluating and acquiring buildings; planning rehab; assembling architects, contractors, lenders and marketing and management personnel; maximizing tax advantages; and setting up legal and corporate entities necessary to carry out such projects. Treese and Rosser took this grant-funded research, produced by ex-

perts in the fields of tax and corporate law, finance and real estate and used it to launch their own careers as for-profit real estate developers of housing for the well-to-do.

Treese and Rosser took great care to conceal from the tenants both their ownership of the 54th and Ellis building (they own it through a secret land trust) and their co-op conversion plans. They told people who knew about their plans, that HUD regulations required conversion plans be kept secret from tenants. This is untrue. In fact, HUD says they encourage developers of

credible claim that they misconstrued a HUD regulation prohibiting pre-selling the apartments to mean they must conceal their co-op plans from the tenants.

Since buying the 54th and Ellis building last spring, Treese and Rosser endangered the health and welfare of the tenants by failing to make needed repairs and by allowing further deterioration. Among the problems they ignored were: gas leaks; infestation by rats, mice and roaches; missing windows; back porches and front stairs on the verge of collapse; holes in walls,

In Hyde Park developers are getting federal funds to "rehab" buildings, raise rents and displace tenants.

such projects to communicate openly and often with the tenants regarding their plans. When asked about this, Treese and Rosser, both housing experts with extensive experience with government-assisted housing programs, made the in-

ceilings and floors; exposed heat pipes; and apartments without working stoves and refrigerators.

The unsafe conditions in the building are well documented by the tenants, by HUD and by the city building department. Last No-

REAL ESTATE

member, Treese and Rosser won a continuance on a code compliance court case by stating that major rehab to correct over 50 multiple violations would be started in April, 1980. This case stemmed from a November, 1976 city inspection and several re-inspections. Despite what the housing court judge was told, HUD has still not approved the co-op rehab project, so there was, and is, no actual guarantee that the rehab will be done.

Tenants association members took their complaints to the States Attorney's office and as a result, the compliance case was moved to criminal housing court following another inspection.

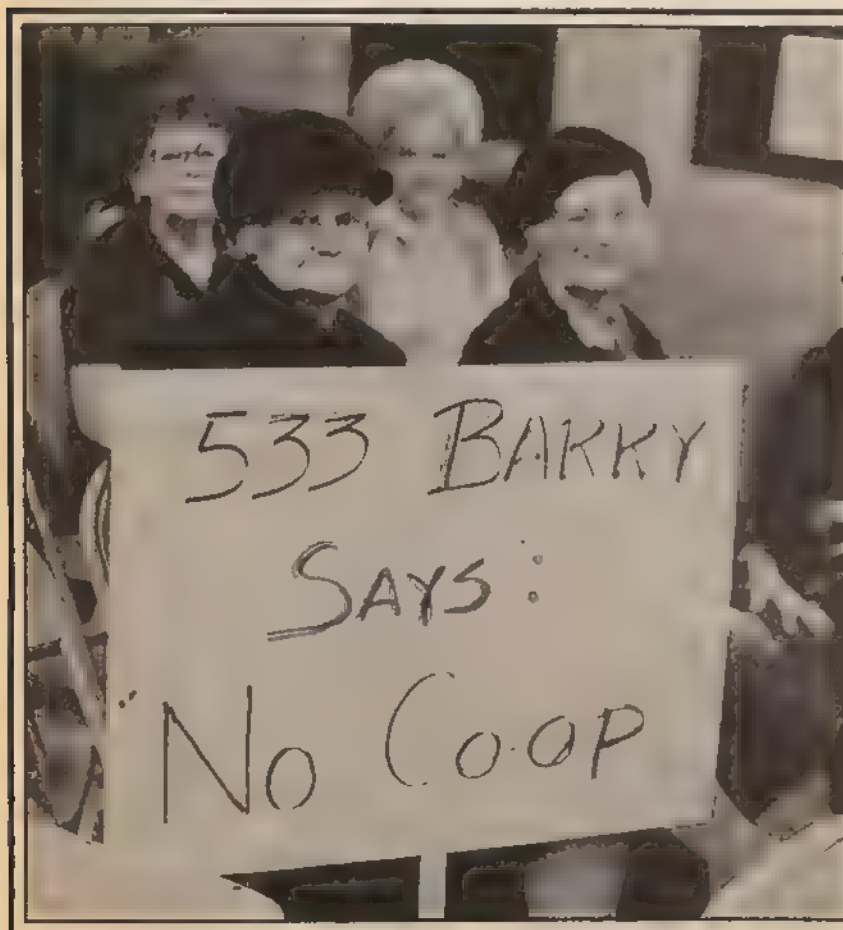
The HUD program provides mortgage insurance for 100 percent of the total project cost, which includes building and land costs; re-

hab costs; financing costs; debt service; and fees for lawyers, accountants, and architects. It also provides a guaranteed profit for Treese and Rosser of three percent of this total project cost. In this case, the no-risk profit would be about \$42,000. Because Treese and Rosser also own the building, they probably will be able to deduct a large percentage of the value of the building from their federal income tax as accelerated depreciation in return for owning the building for a year.

Treese and Rosser paid about \$10,000 per unit for the building and land. Under the terms of their proposal to HUD, about \$20,000 worth of rehab would be done to each apartment. Post-conversion monthly costs would range from

about \$400 for the smallest 1-bedroom apartments to approximately \$700 for 3-bedroom apartments. There would also be initial costs averaging about \$2,000 per apartment. Currently, tenants pay \$210 to \$275 per month. None of the tenants will be able to afford to remain if the conversion is carried out.

Use of the HUD program would qualify the building for 100 percent federal Section 8 rent subsidies. By using Section 8 to help with the monthly costs, and by covering the initial costs with money that would otherwise have to be given to tenants for relocation, some tenants might be able to remain. But Treese and Rosser have tried to insure their displacement by failing even to apply for the use of Section 8 in the



810 Grace strike seeks support

The 810 Grace Tenants Union held a support rally in January as their rent strike moved into its third month. Tenants have charged they were left out of a secret deal made between HUD and private developers to use federal funds to convert the 260-unit building into privately-owned co-op apartments.

Tenants were scheduled to testify in Washington, D.C. last month before Sen. William Proxmire's subcommittee on HUD. A HUD-insured mortgage is being used by developers, tenants charge, to get them to pay for badly needed repairs. Rents will be so high after conversion that more than 75 percent of the tenants will be forced to move.

The 810 Grace Tenants Union is seeking contributions to continue their struggle. □

building.

Currently, there are several other government-assisted rehab projects being done in Hyde Park by private developers, causing large scale tenant displacement. Included in this wave of rehab are at least four large residential hotels: the Del Prado, the Blackwood, the Windemere, and the Mayfair. All of these buildings are being renovated using a HUD mortgage in-

The owners failed to even apply for use of section 8 which would give some tenants the right to remain.

surance program almost identical to the one proposed at 810 Grace and at 54th and Ellis. In all cases, post-rehab rents will skyrocket. Consequently, the low and moderate-income and elderly residents of these buildings are being displaced by a much wealthier class of people.

In the past, the use of rent subsidies in the Hyde Park area has been limited by pressure from the South East Chicago Commission (SECC), a so-called community organization through which the University of Chicago (UC) manipulates neighborhood development in Hyde Park. The SECC was instrumental in developing and carrying out the Urban Renewal program that brought about large-scale removal of low-income people from the Hyde Park area in the 50's and 60's. Under the Daley and Bilandic administrations, Julian Levi, director of the SECC, was head of the Chicago Plan Commission. Tenant activists in Hyde Park speculate that the UC is involved in the 54th and Ellis co-op conversion to

the extent that they are vetoing the use of the rent subsidies that ought to be used in the building.

Naturally, the 54th and Ellis tenants want their building made safe and decent, but they believe \$20,000 per unit is far more than is needed for basic rehab. HUD also thinks that the proposed rehab is too expensive and they notified Treese and Rosser to this effect early last November. Adequate rehab could certainly be done for less and post-conversion housing costs could be kept down somewhat. However, this would decrease Treese and Rosser's guaranteed three percent profit as well.

The tenants feel that Treese and Rosser are trying to create luxury apartments for the well-to-do. Further, the tenants believe that their displacement is intentional and that it is part of a larger plan to rid the community of low and moderate-income people. Barbara Matthews, a tenant leader, says she thinks the co-op conversion is "just a ploy to get low-income people — especially Blacks — out of the Hyde Park area." Tenants in all but three of the 33 apartments are Black.

The outcome of the struggle at 54th and Ellis is critical. It could determine whether government-assisted co-op conversion will become an alternate way for developers to re-gentrify neighborhoods at a time when high interest rates have made condo conversion impractical.

If the conversion at 54th and Ellis is carried out, it will mark the beginning of the re-gentrification of a large part of West Hyde Park, an area that developers have wanted to get their hands on for a long time. □

Ralph Scott belongs to the Hyde Park Tenants Union.



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Community Opposition Halts Chaddick Mall

By Tim Hart

CHICAGO — Real estate tycoon Harry Chaddick's proposal for a regional shopping center on the Victor Comptometer Company site at Irving Park and Rockwell has been "stopped dead for all practical purposes." Chaddick wanted to "plunk" a 350,000 square foot shopping mall on Chicago's north-west side, despite extensive community opposition.

The plan came to a halt as Chicago Mayor Jane Byrne refused to condemn property next to the Vic-

tor site owned by WGN-TV. Chaddick tried unsuccessfully to get WGN to sell or lease him the property so that he could build an access road through to Addison Avenue. A private traffic survey of the site, commissioned by Chaddick, concluded that unless he could build an access road the congestion and traffic problems would be insurmountable. WGN-TV's refusal to sell the property forced Chaddick to ask the mayor to condemn the property as a last resort.

Chaddick, a self-made millionaire, who owns the option to pur-



Harry Chaddick

LADCOR wants to see the site filled with light industry to provide jobs for neighborhood residents.

chase the property, said he stands to lose \$250,000. The mayor is "running scared" Chaddick was quoted as saying in the *Tribune*, "I expected a little more backing from city hall." No doubt, Chaddick is a little peeved, especially since Byrne's husband, real estate reporter, Jay McMullen is a personal friend of his. Chaddick will have to wait for his campaign contributions to Mayor Byrne to pay off.

Earlier in December, 47th ward alderman Eugene Schuler was forced to back away from his "behind closed doors" support of Chaddick's proposal when neighborhood residents voted by a 5 to 1 margin against the plan. Schuler was forced to publicly announce he would oppose the zoning changes necessary for the shopping site to be built. Residents in the immediate vicinity strongly objected to the proposal because of the effect of traffic



Joel Bookman, director of the Lawrence Avenue Development Corporation (LADCOR), "The decision to halt Chaddick's mall is a victory — but we won't be safe until the site is filled."



Ron Peters of North Center Camera on Irving Park — "We've been requesting money to remodel...but city officials cancelled three meetings in a row."

and the dangers to neighborhood children playing in Revere Park, across from the Victor site.

A coalition of 40 additional community and business groups also opposed the plan because of the adverse effects the shopping center would have on nearby commercial neighborhood businesses. There are 12 commercial shopping strips within a three mile radius of Irving Park and Rockwell. A regional shopping mall would have a devastating impact on these neighborhood businesses if it were built.

Joel Bookman, director of the Lawrence Avenue Development Corporation (LADCOR) told KEEP STRONG he felt the decision to halt the shopping mall is a victory but warned, "We won't be completely safe until we find a tenant and the site is filled." Since

the site is zoned for light industry LADCOR and the Lake View Citizens Council are working to find a new tenant for the site. Bookman said that light industry, including electronics, computers, or plastics, would provide jobs for neighborhood residents and tax revenue for the city.

LADCOR is also working to develop the Albany Park area at Kimball and Lawrence with the cooperation of developers and businesses that want to work with businesses that are already in the area. "Studies have shown that the neighborhoods begin to deteriorate when the commercial strips begin to deteriorate because realtors do not want to invest," said Bookman.

The North Center Chamber of Commerce (NCCC) is having difficulty trying to convince Alderman

Schulter and city agencies that this applies to the North Center as well. North Center is the shopping strip closest to the Victor site. Ron Peters, of North Center Camera at 1952 W. Irving Park said, "We've been requesting seed money to improve marketing in the area, remodel storefronts and improve the inadequate parking facilities here." Schullter and the city officials have said they'd be glad to cooperate but they've cancelled three meetings in a row with the NCCC.

While Byrne has backed down on the shopping mall proposal it remains to be seen whether she will give any real support to local shopping strips. Bookman commented that "It's a relief to have the shopping mall which was thrust upon us, out of the way. Now we can get back to the business of developing our neighborhoods." □

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Poor Denied Rights To Public Defender

CHICAGO — Poor people charged with minor offenses in Chicago are often denied their right to an attorney, *The Chicago Reporter* found in a three-month investigation of the Cook County Public Defender's (PD) office, released this month.

Cook County has the second largest public defender's system in the country, with an annual budget of more than \$9.3 million and a staff of 271 lawyers. But a major problem with the system, cited by *The Reporter*, is that there are only a few minority attorneys in the office. While 90 percent of the persons served by the PD office are Black and Latino, there are only 13 Black and 3 Latino attorneys on the staff. Despite warnings by the Chicago Bar Association that the number of Black attorneys is inadequate, the PD office has no affirmative action program and has done nothing actively to increase the number of non-White and bilingual attorneys. Many minority law school graduates may be discouraged from applying to the PD's office because they think you need "clout" to get a job.

In its three-month investigation *The Reporter* also found:

- Public defenders are not appointed to represent poor defendants when they first appear in branch courts. This violates Illinois law.
- Indigent defendants, unable to make bail, may spend up to two weeks in Cook County Jail without the chance to talk to a public defender.
- Defendants who put up bail are often denied the right to a public

defender even though they cannot afford to pay for a private attorney.

Judge William Cousins, former 8th Ward alderman and now a Circuit Court Judge told KEEP STRONG in a recent interview: "The public defender system, in concept, is a very good system, but how it's operating is something else. There's room for improvement."

much personal information about the defendants before they appeared in court so the judge could set bond or release them on their own recognizance ("I-bond.") The bail project folded when the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission (ILEC) cut off funding to the program a few years ago. Since then, there has been "discussion" about the courts

Poor defendants, unable to make bail may spend up to two weeks in Cook County Jail without talking to a public defender.

One problem the *Reporter* investigation found after interviewing several public defenders, is that a public defender cannot officially assist a defendant until appointed by the judge. Several public defenders interviewed by the *Reporter* said they would go back into lock-up, interview a prisoner and, in many cases, arrange to defend the person when the case is called. Attorneys who did this independently were reprimanded (scolded) by the judge and therefore, stopped the practice. Under the present system, the presiding judge decides whether or not a particular defendant is indigent (too poor to afford an attorney) and eligible for a public defender.

Until recently, the Cook County Special Bail Project (CCSBP) trained public defenders and volunteers to interview prisoners in lock-up before they appeared before the judge. The purpose of the interviews was to obtain and verify as

contracting the service, but no real action has been taken.

To prohibit further discriminatory practices in the public defender's office, several actions have been taken. A class-action suit, filed by attorney Robert Mayer, criticizes judges who equate payment of bail with a defendant's ability to pay a private lawyer. In the majority of cases, it's usually a friend or relative, not the accused person themselves, who puts up the money for bail.

Two additional changes in procedure have been recommended. At the administrative level an order could be issued by the chief judge, ordering the police to inform every arrested person that a public defender is available 24 hours a day. Legislation has also been proposed to allow public defenders to represent a person "who appears to qualify" as indigent even before the judge makes a formal appointment. □

DALLAS

Cattle. Oil. Real estate. Sunbelt capital. 3,000 were on the street in November to shut down the Ku Klux Klan. Many more will be mobilized to stop the masterplan.

Dallas, the 7th largest city in the United States, is a city on the move—a center of banking, financing and commerce in oil/cattle rich and anti-union Texas. The city manages to maintain a 'clean image' to attract outside investors. But there is discontent in Dallas, as there is in every other major city in the country. Where there is discontent, there are people resisting. Charley Young files this report:

"In early October of last year, word leaked out from Dallas city hall that the Ku Klux Klan had been

granted a permit to march through downtown Dallas. The Klan march, the first in over 50 years in the city, was to begin across from the central police station and end with a rally near the sheriff's department. A meeting, soon after that, of progressive organizations, determined a response to the Klan march. Another march and rally, called by the progressives, would be held near the time and place of the Klan event. A coalition made up of the Bois D'Arc Patriots, the Brown Berets, Black Women's United Front, People United for Justice for Prisoners, Centro Acción and others decided to march not only for the purpose of protesting the

Klan's presence in Dallas, but to bring together a coalition for human dignity.

"The mass media and the local power structure immediately began to emphasize 'the potential conflict' between the two marches. They began to maneuver to stop the march. Behind the opposition to the march was the Dallas Citizens Council (an elite business organization that runs the city government.) They did not want people outside of Dallas to know of the Klan's new presence (very bad for attracting investors.) And they definitely did not want to see or admit the emergence of a coalition of progressive forces in the city.

"On the other hand, we stressed the idea that the kinds of problems people are experiencing today can only be solved by people working



In November more than 3,000 people turned out to a march and rally in downtown Dallas to protest the presence of the Ku Klux Klan. The march brought together progressive forces in the city in a coalition for human dignity and survival.

collectively. Government officials and the big businessmen they serve will not concern themselves with our survival. We have to put our differences aside and begin to work on common ground to solve common problems.

"We explained that Klan sympathizers (according to a Gallup poll in September 1979, one out of every ten Americans) are frustrated people. They will find no solutions in the Klan ideology, because the Klan doesn't try to identify problems. They search for scapegoats. The Klan doesn't engage in any positive action. They are involved in name calling, hatred and terrorism against ordinary people.

"The citizens committee opposed the coalition's march right up to the last day. In fact, the Council approached several coalition organizers asking the coalition to put the march off for a day, promising that they would co-sponsor the march, rename the event 'Dallas Unity Day' and throw their full support behind

the effort. This, of course, was rejected. In the end, the opposition of some early opponents to the march, including the Black Chamber of Commerce and local churches, shifted towards

More than 3,000 people led by the Coalition marched through downtown Dallas and forced the Ku Klux Klan to abandon their rally.

endorsement and participation.

"By the time the dust settled, in mid-afternoon, on November 3, forty-five Klan marchers had been forced to abandon their rally. Having been met by three thousand people who came to say 'No!'

"Since the march, we've been trying to coordinate a nation-wide anti-Klan network. The Dallas coalition has met several times. We are trying to gather input from different communities on the dir-

ection of the Coalition. Once that information comes in we will process it. We're trying to maintain the kind of flexibility that allows some people to take on an issue and others not and still remain together. We want to accommodate differences between people and still have an understanding of who the enemy is.

"Despite it's ugliness, the Klan remains a less than major problem to most people in Dallas. Here as in other cities, the central issue is development.

"On January 6, the New York Times wire service carried a real estate story on the growth of the residential homes business in east central Dallas.

"The first three paragraphs summarize the story:

'Three years ago, the neighborhood around Bryan and Hall in East Dallas was an inner-city area of vacant lots, deteriorating frame rent houses, and low-rise brick apartment buildings. It was considered one of the toughest parts of town.

Now it is the site of Paul Murrah's \$144,000 house, one in a cluster of single-family homes built by a private developer who took advantage of financial guarantees provided by the city.

'This had been a pretty scroungy, low-income neighborhood,' said Murrah, treasurer of Summit Energy Corp. in Dallas. 'I didn't fool myself about what used to be here. I was more interested in a little pioneering spirit and how things could improve than what was here before.'

"The article goes on to explain the exploits of Fox and Jacobs, one of the nation's largest suburban home builders. The company bought 70 acres within 200 yards of downtown Dallas and plans to

build 400-500 houses. Prices range from \$170,000 to \$145,000. To date 100 homes have been sold. Richie Urso, project manager for Fox and Jacobs, explained the companies reasons for moving into the area, "Our research told us the main market is for single family homes and the Dallas area sorely needed downtown living. New York has brownstones, Washington has Georgetown and Chicago has Lake Shore Drive. Dallas had nothing."

Young, a native of Dallas, angers at talk of 'pioneering spirit' and the idea that 'Dallas has nothing.' "First of all the city used public money to subsidize the risk that Fox and Jacobs might be taking. If they (Fox and Jacobs) decided they wanted to get out from under the land, within four years, the city will buy it back at the price they paid for it plus interest. The city used public funds to do that. At least a forth of that money was pulled from the transportation budget. It wasn't exactly what you call a major commitment on Fox and Jacobs part."

"People's money was stolen by the city managers office with the blessings of the city council. We also have reason to believe that the city pulled some deals for Fox and Jacobs out in the suburbs, where they are most interested in developing, to sweeten the pie."

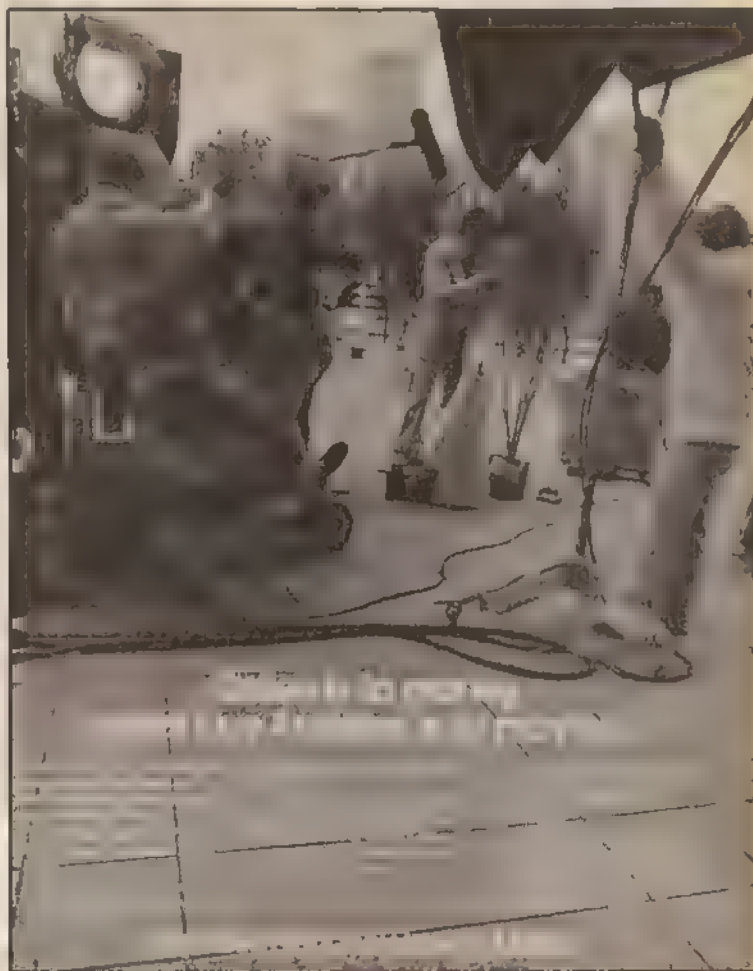
"In order to put the development together, they ran the people that were there out. The city was directly involved in this program, they used code inspectors to harass people. Fox and Jacobs were real sneaky about this when they started. They used a front organization, a realty company, Watson and Watson, to buy the property for them, so nobody would know it was Fox and Jacobs."

"Fox and Jacobs would make a

very low offer to people through Watson and Watson. The people would turn it down. Then the code inspectors would show up right behind them. They'd tell people all the money it would cost them to bring their house up to compliance with the city code. Then they told them all the money they would be liable for in fines for code violations if they couldn't afford to get the work done. The fines can run to \$200 per day per violation. So the people would call Watson and Watson back and take the price. Within 200 yards of down-

town, Fox and Jacobs were buying property for 40 cents a square foot. It wasn't a slick deal, it was theft. And they used public funds to do it."

"Every program that I've ever noticed, that defines housing as the substance of a neighborhood and focuses renovation efforts on housing, ends up forcing the people that were in the houses to move out. It forces the people who live on the land to move away, tears down houses and refocuses the area for a whole new class of people. That's not the way you solve the problem of poverty."□



Advertisement from Fortune Magazine. Charlie Young explains that large real estate developers and banks like Republic National (above) have a strangle hold on the city.

BIG OIL WON'T HURT A BIT

The tax itself will
have nothing to do
with profits.
Oil companies will
make the highest
profits of any
corporation in
the world.

WASHINGTON — After much debate, the U.S. Senate passed its version of President Carter's Windfall Profits Tax. The December 17th vote placed the Senate at odds with the House of Representatives, who had earlier passed their own version. While the House had wanted to increase the tax to \$277 billion over the next ten years, the Senate, under heavy pressure from the oil lobby, voted to decrease the tax to be only 40 percent. A compromise bill is expected to be approved shortly by the House-Senate conference.

Presently, the oil produced in the United States sells for much less than oil produced in other countries. Under the present law, the U.S. government has been forcing oil companies to keep this do-

mestic oil at a certain price. The windfall profits tax allows for the decontrol of these prices so that all crude oil will cost roughly the same. In return for allowing this price increase, the government wants to tax the oil companies a certain percentage in order to help subsidize people who cannot afford the new prices.

The tax itself will have nothing to do with profits. Oil companies will still be allowed to have the highest

profits of any corporations in the world. In fact, the oil companies have so diluted the tax that it is almost meaningless.

In a recent interview, Orin Atkins, of Ashland Oil, had unkind words to say about the tax. "If Congress enacts decontrol and the windfalls profits tax, the major oil companies will cry all the way to the bank. Consider Exxon, for example. Its 1978 after-tax earnings were \$2.76 billion. The giant oil company stands to make an additional \$1.4 billion in profits, after decontrol and the windfall profits tax."

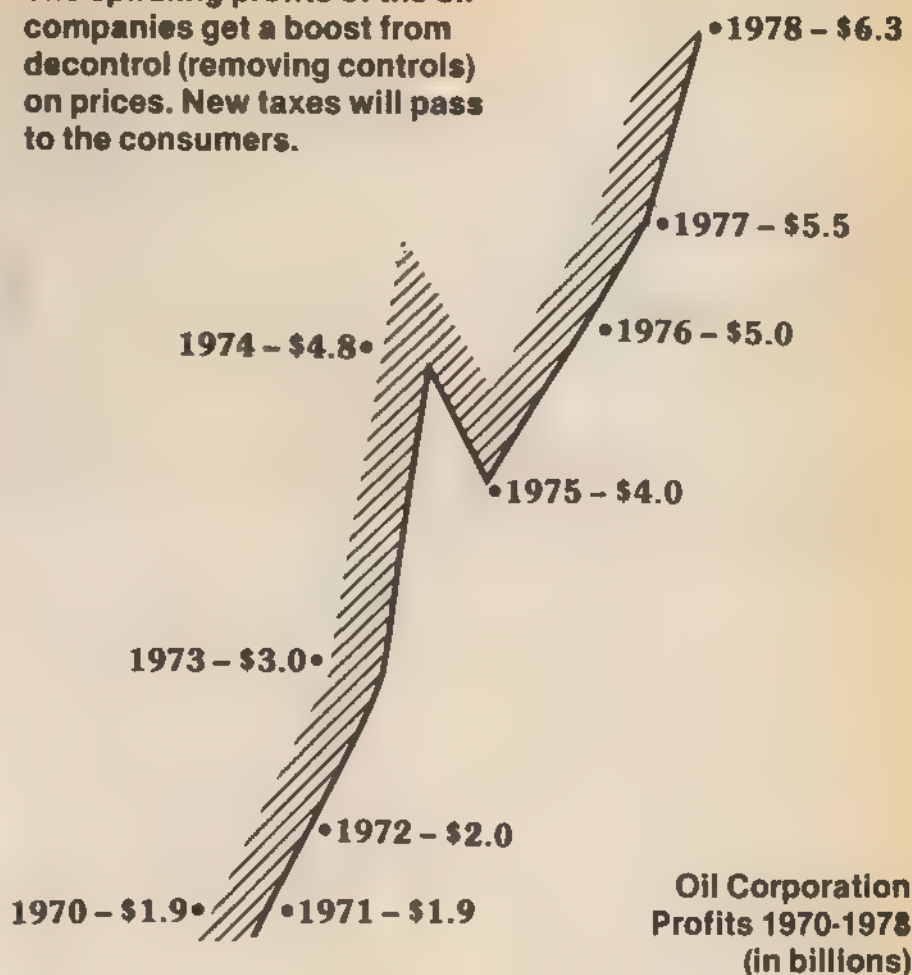
An examination of the proposed tax structure tends to support Mr. Atkins. Carter claims that his tax proposal will take 50 percent of the oil companies' new income and dis-

tribute it back to the people in the form of subsidies and the creation of new cheap sources of energy. But a closer look at the tax law shows something much different. Basically, the tax breaks down the world of crude oil into three parts: lower tier oil, higher tier oil and 'OPEC oil.'

Lower tier oil is crude oil that comes from wells drilled in the United States before 1973. That oil must now be sold for \$6 a barrel. Carter's plan calls for the government to receive one-half the difference between the current price and the \$25 a barrel it will receive after decontrol. Two factors stand to make this tax ineffective. First, the tax itself has a short life and will be eliminated in 1983. Second, is the way oil companies have been circumventing these price controls all along. At least six major U.S. oil companies have been charged with price gouging by the government over the past year. The government allegation stems from the oil industry's practice of claiming lower tier oil to be foreign oil. Since it's almost impossible to tell where crude oil has come from once it's out of the ground, oil companies have been charging consumers the foreign price of oil for oil really extracted in the U.S.

The second category of oil is so-called 'higher tier oil,' which is that crude oil which began being extracted in the U.S. after 1973. Since it supposedly costs the oil companies more money to get this oil out of the ground they can charge \$13 a barrel for it. Carter again wants to take one-half the difference between the present price and the world selling price until 1990 when this tax will expire. However, since U.S. oil companies had long before 1973 stopped

The spiraling profits of the oil companies get a boost from decontrol (removing controls) on prices. New taxes will pass to the consumers.



drilling for new oil in this country, only a small percentage of crude oil comes from these wells and the tax will have little effect.

The potentially largest tax, and the only one of the three which comes close to taxing profits, is the OPEC tax. (Under the plan, the government will take one-half the difference between what the world price of foreign oil is and \$16 a barrel.) The oil companies will actually be able to deduct this tax through their corporate income tax, meaning that the added revenue to the government through the

windfall tax will be offset by the loss of revenue in corporate tax income.

Originally, Carter claimed that over the next three years, the government would receive one-half of all this new money being paid out and give it back to consumers. Now the story has changed. Instead of the consumer getting almost all of the \$3.5 billion back, they will now only get two-thirds or 21 cents on every dollar. Not a whole lot of help in fighting the high inflation which will result from the decontrol of oil prices. □

Japanese Americans demand \$3 billion for World War II imprisonment

Property losses suffered by the Japanese Americans detained in the relocation camps were more than \$400 million in 1942.



Japanese American child — one of the 120,000 forced to live in Nazi-like relocation camps during World War II.

WASHINGTON — A proposed bill to award more than \$15,000 in reparations to every Japanese American forced to live in relocation camps in the United States during World War II has been introduced in the U.S. Congress.

During the spring of 1942, following the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 which ordered tens of thousands of Japanese Americans living in California and the state of Washington to report to relocation camps. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, a wave of racial hysteria swept through the United States and allowed the government to single out and persecute Japanese Americans living here. The government felt that the presence of Japanese Americans living on the West Coast posed a security threat to the United States and suspected their loyalty to the government. In reality, however, not a single Japanese American was ever tried or convicted of espionage (spying) or sabotage.

More than 120,000 Japanese Americans who lived on the West Coast were forcibly detained in concentration camps in California and Washington. (The government preferred to call them 'relocation centers.') Japanese Americans were forced to abandon their homes, farms and businesses; quit their jobs and drop out of school. The Federal Reserve Bank estimates that property losses suffered by the Japanese Americans imprisoned in the camps were more than \$400 million in 1942. Mr. William Hohri, a survivor of the camps, now lives in Chicago and serves as national chairman of the National Council for Japanese American Redress. He calls the imprisonment of the Japanese in the United States a "miscarriage of justice."

The proposed redress bill orders the Justice Department to locate all individuals of Japanese ancestry who were detained in the camps. Each person would receive a "re-

dress" payment of \$15,000 plus \$15 for each day they were detained in the camps. The average length of imprisonment was three years. The bill, "The World War II Japanese American Human Rights Violation Redress Act," asks Congress for \$3 billion in redress payments.

The campaign for the redress bill originated with the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL). According to Mr. Hohri, the JACL voted at their national meeting in 1978 to support legislation for reparations but then reversed their decision in 1979 when Japanese American Congressmen including California Senator S.I. Hayakawa told the group the bill would never pass. Instead, the JACL proposed a bill to establish a "study commission" to gather facts and determine whether or not a wrong was committed against the Japanese Americans held in the camps. However, JACL groups in Chicago and Seattle continued to press for the redress bill. The Seattle group was the "spark plug," says William

Hohri. They had been working on the issue for more than eight years. With the support of the Chicago and Seattle JACL groups, U.S. Congressman Mike Lowry from Washington introduced the bill in November. The bill is expected to be voted on later this year.

Life in the relocation camps was comparable to the Nazi concentration camps. Surrounded by barbed wire fences, the camps had watch-towers and soldiers with machine guns. Thousands were forced to live in horse stables and entire families lived in tar-papered shacks the size of a small room, 15 feet x 12 feet. Japanese Americans were not allowed to hold outside jobs or receive any benefits; the only work they were permitted to do was maintenance work around the camp. Occasionally, people were permitted to leave the camp and go to town for a movie. But like the concentration camps every person had a number they were forced to wear.

Strong support for the redress bill has come from several conferences of the Methodist Church, the American Friends Service Commit-



William Hohri

"The right of compensation for unjust imprisonment is a very fundamental right...."

tee, independent political groups like the IVI-IPO in Chicago, local community groups and churches in Chicago and Seattle. The National Council for Japanese American Redress will be sponsoring events in March and is focusing their campaign on the Global Methodist Church which holds their national conference this spring in Indianapolis.

William Hohri sums up the significance of the demand for reparations: "The right of compensation for unjust imprisonment is a very fundamental human right. It is stated very clearly in the constitution of the American Convention on Human Rights signed by the Organization of American States (OAS.) It was signed by the United States in 1975 and sent by President Carter in 1978 to the U.S. Senate for ratification. The principle is that every person has the right to be compensated in accordance with the law in the event that he has been sentenced by final judgement through a miscarriage of justice. We feel the right to compensation should apply to us."□

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Black Caucus report

"Full employment and balanced growth"

Congressional group issues guidelines for voters to judge candidates seeking national offices.



Job seekers flood city hall in Chicago. The Congressional Black Caucus has called on national candidates to make full employment their top priority.

WASHINGTON — Full employment and balanced economic growth topped the list of priorities in the Congressional Black Caucus 'Voter Evaluation Guidelines' published December 20, 1979.

The "Guidelines," directed at candidates seeking national office in this election year, demand support for a 1983 target date to reduce unemployment to 4 percent (3 percent for adults) overall. (Latest count has put the present unemployment rate at six percent.)

The Caucus program challenges the main components of the present federal economic policy. It cites "the trade-off of fighting inflation by slowing down the economy, bringing on recession and increasing unemployment,...fiscal and monetary policies that promote inflation by inducing credit crunches and raising interest rates, creating shortages and scarcities,"...and the "slashing of federal programs which could be strong anti-inflationary

tools because they target growth in areas where inflation, shortage and scarcities are most acute," as the main economic problems affecting poor and working people.

The first point of the guidelines is entitled, "Full Employment and Balanced Growth Implementation." The section includes detailed proposals for federal policy in the use of CETA funds, housing, energy, health care, education, higher education, urban and rural development and minority business. The final items, under full employment seek two main changes in the make-up of the federal budget. The first, a five percent real increase for discretionary federal programs, would direct those programs to provide assistance to lower-income persons and minorities. The second point asks for a real reduction in defense spending and attacks the "rapidly increasing defense budget, as currently planned, for denying mo-

ney to vital domestic programs."

The last section of the program outlines the main points of a more just foreign policy. The 'Guidelines' specifically call for, "increased economic and political pressure...to force South Africa to change its



U.S. Congressman Ron Dellums of California — leading member of Congressional Black Caucus.

racist policies," re-examination of U.S. policy "which emphasizes the negative impact of the Cuban presence in Africa," bolstering of "economic and political relations with Caribbean countries" and a change in the U.S. immigration system "which has discriminated against the Haitian boat people while favoring those from southeast Asia."

Other points in the program include a demand to increase Black representation in the federal workforce, including policy making positions on the White House Staff, cabinet level and other top level federal offices, support for the Equal Rights Amendment and affirmative action, passage of legislation providing a legal national holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and opposition to any legislation which promises to reform 'the entire collection of federal criminal laws' and increase the 'already excessive use of incarceration' (a reference to Senate Bill No. 1 and its updated version, S.B. 1722, supported by Senator Kennedy). □



Congresswoman Barbara Jordan from Texas.



Main Points – Congressional Black Caucus – Voter Evaluation Guidelines

Full Employment and Balanced Growth

- **CETA (Comprehensive Education and Training Act)**—Improvement and expansion of CETA youth programs to create an additional one million employment and training positions.
- **HOUSING**—Expansion of government housing programs for low and moderate-income families and low-income elderly. A commitment to construction of 2 million new units and 500,000 new subsidized units per year, into the 1980's.
- **ENERGY**—Continued subsidies to low-income persons to pay utility bills. End oil price decontrol. Legislation making the United States government the sole importer of foreign oil. Legislation requiring the vertical and horizontal divestiture of energy companies. Government subsidies and incentives for development of renewable energy sources.
- **HEALTH**—A national health plan which provides quality health care equally to all people regardless of their economic circumstances. Legislation and the use of Presidential powers to allocate medical resources for under-served communities and the reduction of the high cost of medical care.
- **EDUCATION**—Federal government must increase its funding for education three fold. Programs in career education, counseling and compensatory education and extension of quality early childhood education to every disadvantaged child in the country.
- **HIGHER EDUCATION**—Adequate funding for Black colleges and universities and other post secondary institutions which serve low-income students.
Basic Educational Opportunity Grant Program and other federal student financial aid programs should be supported with adequate appropriations adjusted to respond to rising costs.
- **URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINORITY BUSINESS**—A comprehensive program to assure local control of federal grants programs to improve their impact and assure they are implemented in a coordinated manner. Institute measures to assure that the mandate to triple government purchases from minority firms is strictly enforced.



Supporters of ZANU rally in Salisbury Dec. 30.

Cease-Fire in Zimbabwe: Caution

ZIMBABWE — In late 1979 an agreement was reached in London between the British government which invaded and colonized Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), the White minority government there, led by Ian Smith and Bishop Muzorewa, and the Patriotic Front which has been leading the country's fight to gain independence and majority rule. The agreement called for a cease-fire between Rhodesian Security Forces and the Patriotic Front to begin in January and for honest elections to be held in February. Already, the major western powers and transnational companies who have great economic and political interests in Zimbabwe, appear to be undermining the agreement. This is a crucial month in the battle to gain true independence from foreign

and minority rule. (See background on Zimbabwe.)

Britain has sent in troops to "monitor" the cease-fire. Many of their actions have, however, favored the Rhodesian Security Forces. The British have authorized the Security Forces to attack freedom fighters' bases in some cases and they have made not a single move to get the large number of South African troops who have been helping the Rhodesians out of the country.

Observers are convinced that if

South African and some other western governments fear the results of an honest election because they want to keep as much influence as possible in this rich country. The mineral wealth of the country includes gold, chrome, copper, iron ore, asbestos, zinc and lead. All mining is under the control of the British and American companies... Union Carbide, all the oil companies, the auto companies, most of the 500 largest U.S. corporations are there — either directly or indirectly. In addition,

South Africa fears that a truly independent Zimbabwe which lies at its northern border will bring closer the end of its own racist minority rule.

Already an enormous amount of money is flowing into the country to influence the election from the outside. Efforts are underway to try to discredit or perhaps even exclude ZANU from the elections.

Conditions for the people in the country are very difficult. There has been little time to prepare properly for the elections (the

on and Hope

honest elections are really held, the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) which has led the fighting forces for independence and is headed by Robert Mugabe, will win. ZANU then would have the responsibility of setting up a new government based on their principle of real independence, not independence for the country in name only.

The incredible reception that the first freedom fighters received when they returned to the country — greeted by tens of thousands of cheering people of all ages is testimony to the heartfelt respect people in the country feel for them and for the leadership they have given with their lives on a daily basis.

However, the British, American,



Zimbabwean guerrilla reads serial number of his rifle to Patriotic Front liaison officer at ceasefire checkpoint last week.

INTERCOMMUNAL REPORT



Joshua Nkomo (left) and Robert Mugabe (right), co-leaders of the Patriotic Front that has waged armed resistance in Zimbabwe forcing the government to disband and call new elections.

British insisted on very fast elections.) The rainy season which brings additional health problems especially malaria is about to begin. Further, there are tens of thousands of refugees who have been living in neighboring Mozambique and elsewhere who ought to be allowed to return in time to participate in the elections. Their return has been slowed. As they do return, they are in desperate need of clothing, shelter, medicines and educational materials since they have lost what little they had had.

The people of Zimbabwe have fought long and hard for the independence. They are now up against not only the well-armed Rhodesian Security Forces and South African troops but also against the desperate intent of some of the most powerful governments

and corporations in the world. They will be surprised at no trick that may be used against them at this critical moment.

As the election nears, no one is sure exactly what treacherous methods will be used by the big western powers to try to keep as much control as possible over the land, resources and the lives of millions of human beings in Zimbabwe. But it is certain that the people of Zimbabwe who have sacrificed so much already in their struggle for the freedom to control their own future will not hesitate to meet any new obstacles now. They have already learned that their problems will not be solved by anyone but themselves — they have become their own liberators. This is a lesson from which people everywhere can learn. □

AFRICA



Urgent Appeal

The tens of thousands of refugees who are returning to Zimbabwe from Mozambique and other neighboring countries are in desperate need of funds, medicines, clothing, food, and educational materials. Please find a way to help. You may contact KEEP STRONG or write directly to:

Zimbabwe African
National Union (ZANU)
211 E. 43rd Street Suite 902
New York, New York 10017

ZIMBABWE BACKGROUND

- Zimbabwe is a beautiful country in southern Africa which was invaded and after much struggle made a colony by the British in the 1800s. The British then called the country Rhodesia. It is the homeland of more than 5 million Black Africans who were forced to live in terrible conditions under the rule of a tiny European minority of about 250,000 — less than 5 percent of the population.

- This tiny European minority, under the leadership of Ian Smith, formed its own government to try to prevent the majority of Zimbabwe's people from getting independence from England. They created one of the most tyrannical and racist regimes to be found anywhere in the world, and the U.N. condemned the regime as totally illegal.

- For example, 44 million acres, almost half the country's best land, was reserved for Europeans only; the overwhelming majority of Africans are very small farmers barely eking out an existence on the land that was left. Of all the rest of the workers in the country, Africans are 87 percent of the work force that produces the country's wealth. The average African income for a whole year was about \$500; the average European made at least 10 times as much. Any

African who fails to carry out the instructions of his employer can be prosecuted as a criminal. Conditions were similar in regard to health and education — in fact, all aspects of life. Any meetings or demonstrations to protest or change these conditions were banned. And along with strict censorship, the Smith government held thousands in concentration camps without charges or trial under "preventive detention."

- Over these many years there has always been daring struggle to gain independence and majority rule. In 1963 ZANU — the Zimbabwe African National Union — was formed. It has led the fight for independence with its military arm (ZANLA) and by organizing tens and tens of thousands of people in the countryside and towns not only to fight but provide for thousands — health care, education, food for survival, and a grass roots administration of daily life.

- This has all been accomplished against the powerful Rhodesian Security Forces, who have been backed (in the open and behind the scenes) by the money and arms of the major western powers. South African troops have entered the country to aid the Rhodesians. In 1979 Smith, finally realizing that

his regime was losing, made a desperate move.

- The Smith regime found a puppet who would do basically what they wanted him to do if they gave him a place in their little clique. This man, Bishop Muzorewa, agreed to play the role. And in the spring of 1979 the Smith government held phoney "elections" setting up a "new Smith regime" with the Bishop at the head. This maneuver didn't fool anyone for long and the fight for true independence continued to move toward victory.

- In late 1979 the British, scared that this victory would come at any moment, called a meeting in London which was attended by the Smith regime and the Patriotic front which had been leading the independence fight. A cease-fire agreement was reached which, in brief, called for the ending of fighting and the holding of free and honest elections this February. British troops were to "monitor" this agreement.

- At this moment the whole world is watching to see if truly free elections will be held or whether there will be yet another conspiracy to prevent true majority rule in Zimbabwe. □

“I was born in a poor family. I would listen to my parents talk about poverty being imposed on them by a system run by a group of people who had invaded our country and taken our land. This kept growing in my mind and I decided that if I had power I would hit this system and knock it down. When I started reading revolutionary books I discovered it was possible to fight a group of oppressors and turn things around.”

— Josiah Tongogara



In Memorium and In Tribute: Josiah Tongogara

ZANU Chief of Defense

Josiah Tongogara, chief of the armed forces of ZANLA, the freedom fighters of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) made an enormous contribution to his people's struggle for justice and liberty. He died at the age of 41 on December 26 in Mozambique, reportedly in a car accident. Tongogara became active in the struggle to gain independence for Zimbabwe as a young man in the 1950s. He helped to found and became a part of the backbone of ZANU which has led the modern fight to liberate the country.

Tongogara was a military chief close to the people and close to the army he helped to build and lead. He participated courageously in many military operations inside the country as well as coordinating the education, development and military work of the army, built by and from the people, which has won a major victory on the road to real independence.

Always aware that the people of Zimbabwe have fought to secure their freedom ever since they were invaded and occupied, Tongogara recalled his grandfather who

refused to move when the colonizers wanted his land. Tongogara's grandfather said: "We'll stay even if you have to kill us." And that is how Tongogara got his name. It means "We'll just stay, even if there are difficulties."

His death, just two days before the cease-fire was set to begin, was a bitter loss to the people of his country and to his comrades in the fight. The example of his life — what he did to 'turn things around' — will always be an inspiration to them and to all who love and fight for freedom. □

Cubans In Africa

In the United States the news media has distorted the image of Cuba's presence in Africa. They never discuss the concrete contributions the Cubans are making to the development of economic and social life in Africa. The following two articles describing cooperative work between the African and Cuban people are reprinted with permission from Third World (May, 1979).

Chickens in the Desert...



A few miles out of Aden one is in the desert that extends into Saudi Arabia. Nearly all of Yemen is desert and this has molded its people's culture. But as we drove out in a jeep with Ortelio Triana Pérez, who heads the Cuban Aviculture Brigade in Yemen, woods appeared on the horizon.

"Yes, we planted the trees for the chickens. We have to prevent the sand from blowing up and affecting their health, as far as we can."

Yemeni-Cuban cooperation has created eight chicken farms in five provinces. Revolutionary countries have found fowl-raising to be one of the best and quickest ways of increasing protein in their peoples' diet. Africans and Arabs, noting the great results it has brought in Cuba, are eager for Cuban advice on techniques developed there. Democratic Yemen produced

15,000,000 eggs last year and plans to produce 35,000,000 in 1979. The present infrastructure consists of laying, reproduction and incubation installations and feed factories, all brought from Cuba as the Cuban people's contribution to the Yemeni revolution. Ten Cubans are there to help out — specialists in genetics, nutrition, industrial mechanics, biological control, veterinary medicine, etc.

The original plan only called for egg production, but after the first visit by a Cuban mission the Yemeni government wanted to extend it to meat. For that purpose Cuba sent fertile eggs in four pure genetic lines. There is also a technical training school with Cuban advisors from which 72 students have graduated, and Yemenites spent three years in Cuba acquiring know-how to take charge of the farms.

"Without you people," Ortelio was told by Saleh Bin Haider speak-

ing for his government, "none of this would exist."

Congo & Mozambique

Congo-Brazzaville, when we were there, was awaiting the arrival of three Cuban experts to provide the country with its first chicken farms — in Punta Negra, Brazzaville and Lubomo. As is customary, conditions for the project were first studied by a delegation, then late last year fertilized eggs and breeding stock arrived from Cuba. As a Congolese technician said, "so as not to have to import more chicks use were already there and just had to be adapted so the investment was almost zero. It was a matter of rationalizing the use of the infrastructure."

In Mozambique the government is equally interested in developing aviculture for short-term increase of protein in the people's diet. There the infrastructure inherited from colonialism was amplified and since 1977, with the help of Cubans long



A Cuban medical brigade shares knowledge and experience at the Americo Boavida Hospital in Luanda, Angola.

INTERCOMMUNAL REPORT

experienced in the field, a National Aviculture Enterprise was set up and a technical school is functioning with a simple basic program. Alvaro Dos Santos Meirelles, a NAE official, told us: "We've now surpassed 1973 production, the biggest year under colonialism." We asked him about the help received from Cuba.

"As you might expect," he said, "for various reasons many experts

left the country when these production units were intervened by the government. Some were mixed up with the sabotage that their enterprises indulged in. Well, since chicken-raising was a top priority for FRELIMO, our government signed cooperation agreements with Cuba and the first 15 specialists have been here for a year to form cadres and give us technical advice."□

Sports...



The Crater section of Aden has a lot set up for gymnastics. There, 29-year-old José Antonio Faxe from Las Tunas, Cuba, gives boxing lessons everyday. The kids see him coming and the fun begins. His hundred-odd pupils can't understand what he says, but the international language of gesture works better in pugilism and he does have an interpreter: Yahe Abudula Bamusa, a Yemeni agronomist who studied in Cuba for two years.



José Antonio Faxe is training the future boxing champions in Yemen.

We asked José Antonio if he expected his classes to produce a Yemeni champ. "We're only beginning," he said, "and they're very young. But with socialism, anything can happen — when everyone gets a chance to practice sport. So who knows?"

The classes are often conducted when the thermometer is over the 40°C (104°F) mark, but every Yemenite who knows José Antonio comments on his unflagging enthusiasm.

Cuba is also lending sport cooperation to Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, Angola, Sierra Leone and Mozambique, and will probably soon do so in Benin. In Mozambique we found other José Antonios coaching gymnastics, volleyball, basketball, athletics and physical ed.

"It's one of our most popular fields," said Comandante Curbelo. "Africans are very sport-minded and they expect to do great things."□

Third World is a magazine on the Third World (the underdeveloped countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America), made by Third World journalists and is addressed mainly to the Third World.

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Looking Back

by Eugene Feldman

In the 1930's she established the Art Center so unemployed Black artists could find work with dignity. Artist...writer...teacher...activist...Today, Dr. Margaret Burroughs heads the DuSable Museum of African-American History in Chicago. Her sharp creative spirit continues to inspire the world-wide movement for pride in Black history and culture....

Dr. Margaret Burroughs, a most beautiful Black sister, grew up poor in a racist society. If someone at that time would have asked about the possibilities of that little girl, then attending grade school, one might have said, "almost none because she is poor and she is Black." If they gave that answer they would not have counted on the sharp, emerging creative spirit of Margaret Burroughs.

It was this spirit and its ability to meet challenges, that made her a pioneer in the Black cultural movement, that led her to be a principal founder of the South Side Commu-

Eugene Feldman teaches history at Columbia College and is on the staff at the DuSable museum.

Margaret Burroughs

Building The Movement For African-American History



Dr. Margaret Burroughs speaks at graduation exercises at the Christian Action Ministry (CAM) Academy in May, 1968. A former Chicago school teacher, Dr. Burroughs often talks to classes on the contributions of Black men and women to our nation.

nity Art Center, the DuSable Museum of African American History, The Lake Meadows Art Fair, the Chatham Art Fair, the National Conference of Negro Artists, and the Association of Black Cultural Organizations.

It was yet this spirit that challenged racism in our country and specifically in our Chicago community. In her youth she worked with the Youth Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (N.A.A.C.P.). She wrote news articles for the Associated Negro Press and other

Black press organizations. She picketed, she helped organize, she wrote and as an artist she illustrated — all efforts in the campaign for a fuller emancipation of not only Black people but of all poor.

Dr. Margaret Burroughs was to help set the stage for the current Black cultural revival by her publication of her world famous poem, "What Shall I Tell My Children Who Are Black?"

Her book for children, published even earlier, "Did You Feed My Cow," incorporated sayings Black children had been singing and recit-

Looking Back

continued

ing for generations while they played their games, jumped rope and played jack-stones. Now the world had them and was enriched even more. "Jasper the Drumin' Boy," was another one of her books for children in which she related the Black experience of younger folk.

She came to Chicago with her parents as a girl in the early 1920s. The family came from the South as did many other Black families, to earn a living and to escape the terrors of lynching, discrimination and poor education.

She began her elementary schooling in Chicago's southside and in later years was to teach in these very same schools. And some years still later she would visit these schools to lecture on the contributions of Black men and women in our nation. In high school a White teacher inspired her career in the educational and art worlds.

The museum let the nation know that Black men and women not only helped build our country but contributed to world civilization.

As far back as 1945, she joined with several other colleagues to establish a Black museum in her gallery apartment in the coach house at 3806 South Michigan Avenue. This was the beginning of her efforts to have a museum which would let our nation know that Black men and women helped not only build our country but also contributed heavily to world civilization.

They wanted to show that Africa was the original home of our own alphabet, mathematics, astronomy, medicine, law and other branches of human knowledge.

In her private life Dr. Margaret Burroughs is the mother of two: Gail and Paul. Her first husband, Bernard Goss was an artist. His work hangs in many homes, art gal-



An accomplished painter, Margaret Burroughs was a principal founder of the South Side Community Art Center in Chicago 40 years ago. The Center continues to sponsor art shows by Black artists who otherwise might not have a chance to display their work.

Even before that Margaret Burroughs had been one of the charter members of the new Southside Community Art Center. Today, more than 40 years since its founding it still exists offering, as it has done for years, lectures, classes in various art forms, and an opportunity for art shows for Black artists — who many times otherwise might not have the chance to show their work. Back in the late 1930s, when Margaret Burroughs and her friends organized the Art Center, the depression was on full scale.

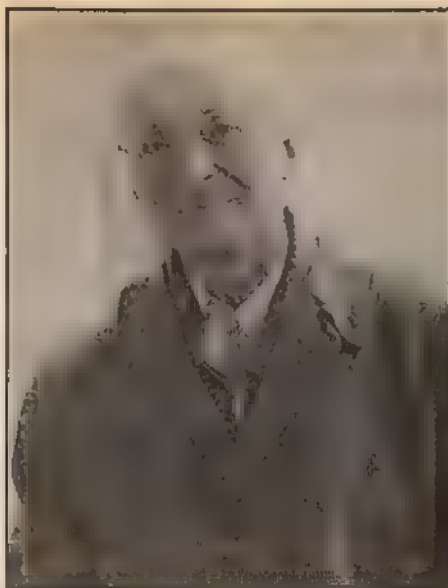
Those were times of severe unemployment, Ku-Klux-Klan midnight rides, but also creative and inspiring days, due to the inspiring and creative people who organized the new Art Center and who came to dedicate it for now almost a half century of contributions to the community.

leries and illustrates calendars, books and brochures. Her present husband Charles Burroughs, is an historian and educator, having taught at various Chicago area colleges. He is presently curator of the DuSable Museum and one of its founders.

In 1960 the large house in front of the Burroughs' gallery coach house apartment was occupied by the Quincy Club. The Quincy Club was made up of Black railroad men who used it as their social club and as a place for some of their members to stay when they were in the city. But by 1960 some of these men had passed away and others were on the retirement list. So in October, 1961, the Ebony Museum of Negro History and Art opened its doors. It occupied only three rooms of the old large house but as

the Chinese proverb says, "The first step of a long journey is the most important move."

The Museum has had several name changes but always under the directorship of Dr. Margaret Burroughs. It is now named after the founder of the City of Chicago, Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, a Black man who came from Haiti and who was first to recognize the commercial importance of Chicago's setting. Soon the DuSable Museum grew and needed larger space. It found that space in 1972 in the former administration building of the Chicago Park District and has



Photos by Bettie Conrad



Eugene Feldman (upper left) works on the staff at the DuSable Museum of African-American History, founded in 1961 and headed today by Dr. Burroughs. Sculptures, displays and artwork teach the history and contributions of the African-American people.

been raising funds to remodel its newly acquired quarters. Dr. Burroughs has led in the fund raising and some \$800,000 has been raised to remodel the first phase of the work. Now the second and final phase remains to be done and some \$400,000 is needed to do this.

Today it is a popular matter to sponsor Black culture and issues. But some years ago, especially during the days when Senator Joseph McCarthy was conducting his so called "crusade" to save the country in the 1950s, this was not true. Anyone calling for an end to discrimin-

ation against Blacks, Native Americans, Latin Americans or women was quickly labeled a danger to our country. But Dr. Burroughs, in spite of this, worked as hard as she could for the extension of rights to all. She was then a young teacher and she helped sponsor Paul

Looking Back

continued

Robeson the great baritone, movie star and civil rights activist. Those were days when the pressure was on against Robeson just because he also advocated rights for Black people. The pressure was on so strongly that he lost his jobs as an actor and singer and he couldn't even get a hall to speak his views. But Margaret Burroughs stood up and helped rent a hall, sought out a church, or auditorium for him to speak to the people. She also helped sponsor Dr. W.E.B. DuBois, one of the founders of the N.A.A.C.P. There were those also who wanted to still his voice. Yet Dr. Burroughs felt that these two men were giants and should have a hearing.

Dr. Burroughs, for more than a decade, led a group of American educators on university tours to Africa. Here teachers learn and are awarded credits for their study. She has been to many parts of Africa and her impressions and knowledge of its diverse cultures and

languages are full and strong. She wrote a book of poems entitled "Africa! My Africa!" Now it is out of print and friends and educators are asking that it be reissued.

She has been to the Soviet Union and the Eastern European countries several times.

Margaret Burroughs has been to Cuba to see the new homes, hospitals, schools and industries that are

Africa was the original home of our alphabet, mathematics, astronomy, medicine, law and other branches of human knowledge.

now being built since the despot Batista no longer is around to exploit the island republic. She has been to Mexico and knows its foremost artists. She has been to China to study socialist life as it is being built there. She has seen the antiquities of some of the most ancient people in the world, the Blacks

whom today we call ancient Egyptians and who lived along the Mother Nile. She has seen the ruins of the people who received their lessons from these Blacks: the Greeks and Romans. She has visited and broken bread with the ancient Jews, the Black Falashas of Ethiopia. She has gone to the source and to the roots and fed herself with the nutrients of history and hope.

These are days when women are compelling doors to open. These are days when Black people the world over are finding beauty and security in their own history and culture. Third world people are coming into their own. Dr. Margaret Burroughs, honored for her work by Lewis University with a doctorate, is a pioneer in all of these mighty efforts. Because of her empathetic understanding she very well can be our ambassador in reaching out to people whose relationships we need but because of past insensitivities we have botched and seriously harmed. Margaret Burroughs is a large tree in the forest. She is still building and her work is still growing. □



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SAVE-A-LOT — “No Frills” Grocery Store

By Sonia Arvanitis

The era of no frills air travel has also brought us the no frills supermarket. There is a growing number of food stores using cost cutting measures to pass on savings to shoppers.

The no frills stores save money on refrigeration costs, as they do not carry fresh meats, produce and frozen foods. The stores have no fancy lights and displays and often look more like a warehouse. Goods are stacked in their original cartons. Prices are not marked on individual packages or cans but instead are displayed by the product and a price list of all items is available before you begin to shop. Bring your own bags and bag it yourself.

Perhaps the most well known of the no frills supermarkets in the Chicago area is Aldi's, with stores in Chicago's suburbs. The first such store in Chicago is Save-A-Lot, located at Broadway and Rosemont (6300 N.).

Save-A-Lot, in operation for eight months, boasts you can save 30 percent on your weekly grocery bill. Owner Brad Weiss has been impressed with consumer response and plans to open a second store on the southside in the near future.

Consumer Notebook compared the prices of 25 items from Save-A-Lot to Dominick's, A&P, Jewel and Jewel Generic brand. When the item was not a name brand, then it was compared to the store's "in-house" label (Heritage House at Dominick's, Ann Page at A&P and Jewel Maid at Jewel).

On the 25 items Save-A-Lot offered a 22 percent savings com-

pared with Dominick's and Jewel; a 14 percent savings over A & P and almost no savings against Jewel Generic brand. While not living up to a boast of 30 percent savings, prices on the whole were cheaper than Chicago's leading chain stores.

Offered at Save-A-Lot are canned fruits and vegetables, soup, canned meats, pasta, beans, baking supplies, seasonings, condiments, beverages, pet foods, household products, cereals, and health and beauty aids. □



The Save-A-Lot store at Broadway and Rosemont, offers savings to shoppers.

Item	Save-A-Lot	Dominick's	A&P	Jewel Generic
Lima Beans 16oz...	\$.35	\$.61	\$.42	\$.35
Cut Green Beans 16oz	.29	.54	.30	.25
Pork & Beans 16oz...	.25	.31	.33	.23
Cream Corn 16oz...	.28	.26	.28	.25
Sauerkraut 16oz...	.29	.33	.40	.29
Spinach 15oz...	.35	.44	.46	.35
Tomatoes 16oz...	.29	.39	.29	.25
Tomato Sauce 16oz..	.42	.36	.42	.38
Tomato Paste 6oz...	.25	.26	.31	.25
Tomato Soup 10oz...	.23	.23	.19	.23
Chicken Noodle Soup 10oz	.23	.27	.30	.23
Tuna Chunk Light 6½oz...	.75	1.12	.96	.69
Sugar 5lb	1.19	1.46	.99	1.19
Flour 5lb...	.69	.99	.79	.69
Salt 26oz...	.19	.25	.27	.17
Applesauce 16oz..	.33	.43	.55	.31
Kellogg's Wheaties 18oz...	1.09	1.32	1.27	1.04
Kellogg's Frosted Flakes 20oz...	1.09	1.67	1.74	1.29
Wheat Bread 1lb...	.39	.48	.69	.69
White Bread 1lb...	.32	.48	.49	.22
Milk gallon...	1.69	1.90	1.59	1.87
Vegetable Oil 48oz..	1.95	2.38	1.99	1.79
Coke 6-pak 12oz cans...	1.39	2.09	2.09	2.09
Sprite 6-pak 12oz. cans...	1.39	2.09	2.09	2.09
Tab 6-pak 12oz. cans...	1.39	2.09	2.09	2.09
	\$17.08	\$22.75	\$20.30	\$19.28

★ JIM SMITH ★ Superbowl ★ Star

The Pittsburgh Steelers face off against the Los Angeles Rams in the 1980 Superbowl. Fans from both cities will converge on the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California and cheer their hometown teams. But one woman in the stands will have her own special reason to be there.

Ms. Lucille Harris of Country Club Hills (southwest of Chicago) is the mother of Jim Smith, wide-receiver for the Steelers.

"I feel super! I felt super last year and this year I feel twice as good. It's just marvelous. I went to all of his high school games and never missed a college game. I don't care where it was played. Sometimes, I really couldn't afford it but I knew I had to spend the money. No matter where he played, I just flew there. We always felt someone had to be there for Jim. I went in all kinds of weather — through all four years of his college games. I would take off from work. I was so happy to be there with him."

Jim was born in Harvey, Illinois and graduated from Eisenhower High School in Blue Island in 1972. In high school Jim was a star player on the football and basketball teams. After graduation Jim attended the University of Michigan



where he majored in speech and communications. He played football at Michigan and soon went on the pro's. When off-season, Jim works for a real estate firm in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he lives with his wife and son.

KEEP STRONG talked to Ms. Harris about her support for Jim's football career: "Like most mothers when their son's first starting out and they look so big and lanky out there in their uniforms, you're afraid they're going to get hurt. But after a few games your son tells you, 'Hey, look Mom, I'm going to

play ball!' You say, 'Okay, you play ball and I'll come and cheer you on.' So, you go to the games and cheer him on, hide your face, do the usual. It's one of those things, if your son or daughter wants to do it and they're going to excel, it's always best if you have a little fear. Keep it in the back of your mind, don't give it to the kids. That's the way I always feel about it."

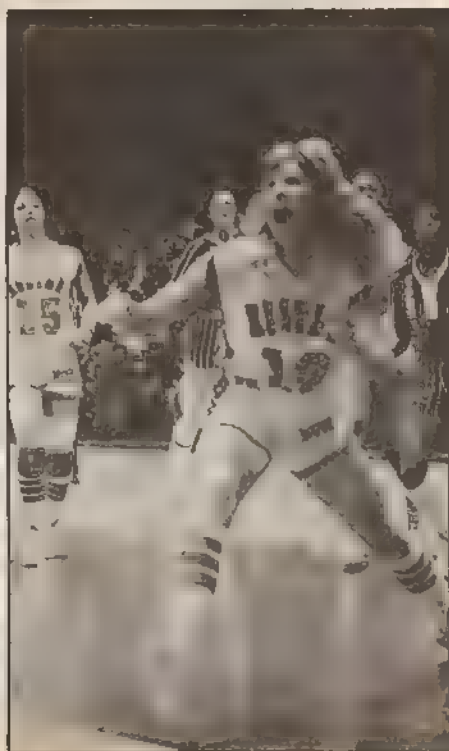
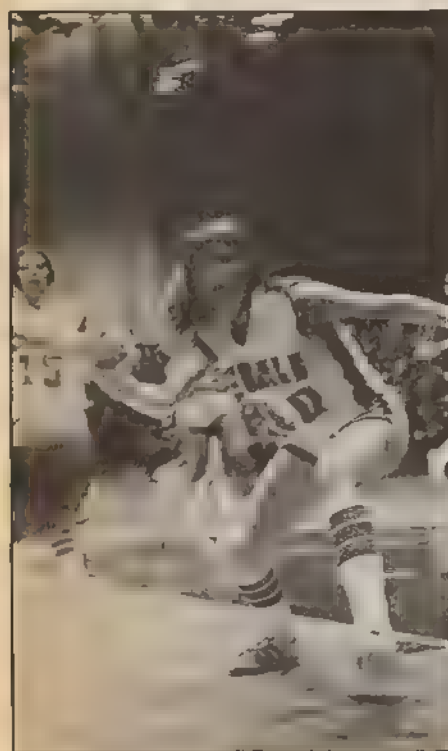
Reached in Pittsburgh, Jim told KEEP STRONG that his family gave him the support he needed during those early years. "Yes, they

made it to all the games. But it was never a big, high pressure thing, it was never a lifelong dream. They're ecstatic about me playing in the Super Bowl. We went last year and my family came."

Although a Pittsburgh man, Jim's loyal to his hometown and roots for the Chicago Bears. "I'm always partial to them; I always root for them because I'm from that area. But we never play them and I never really get a chance to see them play. But I know they have some quality people on their team, I know a couple of players. I played against Brian Baschnagel, he's from Ohio State — we played against each other for a few years. And Revie Sorey from Illinois — he recruited me at the University of Illinois but I didn't go there. You'd always like to play for a home team and have all your friends come and see you. But I can't complain with the situation I'm in now."



Jim Smith's family. His mother, Ms. Lucille Harris (seated on right) of Country Club Hills says — "I feel super....I went to all his high school games and never missed a college game. We always felt someone had to be there for Jim."



Welcome Back Janie

In December, Chicago Hustle guard, Janie Fincher was traded to the Washington Metros. The move shocked and angered Hustle fans. But the Metros couldn't come up with the cash (they later went bankrupt) and Janie returned to Chicago when the trade was nullified. Hustle has the largest per game attendance of all the WPBL teams and the fans here have shown their delight in having Janie back.

CUBA

Movie Review

By Juan Montenegro

My first question had to be: why was this movie made? Upon walking halfway into the movie at the McClurg Court Theater right in the midst of the battle scene in the sugarcane fields, I started bracing myself for at least a good war movie. But pretty soon things began to grind to a halt; the old Hollywood stereotypes began to appear. The Latin-lover playboy who is rich, but worth nothing; the opportunist American businessman, appropriately played by Jack Weston; the prostitute who steals the businessman's money while he sleeps; the strip dancer who looked like Charo (Ms. Cuchi-Cuchi); and all the rest...you have seen them before.

I was really looking forward to this movie called "Cuba." First, because I'm Cuban. And second, because it headlines one of my favorite actors, Sean Connery. Poor Mr. Connery looked lost in the myriad of poorly written plots and sub-plots, leading to unlikely coincidences, such as when Jack Weston, the businessman, and Connery, the mercenary, find themselves together in a moving



Dapes (Sean Connery), Gutman (Jack Weston) and Alexandra (Brooke Adams) are detained by rebels. "They looked like extras from southern Spain. Just think of the great help the Cubans would have been providing real revolutionaries."

Sherman tank! Poor Jack is doing his best to look fat and out-of-place while the able Connery is trying to get him to steer the tank while he shouts, "It's just like driving a car!"

The key flaw in this movie was that it was not filmed in Cuba itself. While the sets in southern Spain were pretty, even to the sugarcane fields, the movie lacked the veracity of environment that shooting it in Cuba would have given it. It led me to think of another recent movie which, unfortunately, had only a one-day showing here in Chicago. "The Disappeared," or "Prisioneros Desaparecidos" is filmed in Cuba and deals with those disappeared people tortured and murdered by the Pinochet Junta of Chile. The authenticity of this picture went to

the extent of using Chilean and South American actors, shot mainly in the controlled environment of the house that the disappeared were taken to. "The Disappeared" gives all the feeling of authenticity that "Cuba" lacked. How can you not laugh at a shot of a rotund and scared-looking Batista looking over his shoulder as he runs to a waiting airplane with two white grand pianos filled with money.

And what about the rebels? My god, were they a sad sight. It's a wonder they won anything at all. It looked like a bunch of carelessly-picked extras from southern Spain wandering from scene to scene, who knew next to nothing of the real Cuban revolution.

It all led you to believe that the

real "Cuba" movie has yet to be made. May I foretell the future. Once the word gets out, "Cuba" is going to backfire on its producers and turn out to be a real money loser. But don't worry about it. "Cuba" couldn't have cost that much anyway. With the limitations imposed by an obviously poorly written script, the movie insisted in mixing the love story of the accidental re-encounter of Brooke Adams, a real woman of the world I guess, and Sean Connery. They had first met 15 years earlier in Africa, where he was a mercenary, and she, we are not told what. But their lives had gone different ways. Their conversation upon the re-encounter helps to explain to the unknowing viewer what the problems in Cuba were. But they are meant to part again. She decides to stay after the revolution wins, while he flies out. This must have



Juan Palido (Chris Sarandon) — a Latin-lover playboy in Cuba — "rich...but worth nothing."



Robert Dapes (Sean Connery) and Alexandra Palido (Brooke Adams) play lovers re-united during last weeks of Batista regime in movie, "Cuba." "Their conversations help explain what the problems in Cuba were."

meant she was more idealistic, no? In the movie, you see the next plane fill up with people, including Connery, and taxi off into the skies, right behind Batista's aircraft. Who's seated right behind him? Why Jack Weston, our opportunist American businessman, of course. A minute later, Castro walks right into the airport terminal, and says "Good-Bye" to frightened looking Batistianos and foreigners alike. Smooth as clockwork, the revolucionarias (women) slipped into position behind the airline counters, taking over these jobs, looking happy to find them important to the revolution.

Can we call it thoughtlessness? Was anybody really looking at what they were doing? It would be as if in Pearl Harbor the Japanese had won and their head honcho had come down to Waikiki Beach to bid good-bye to the defeated American Navy. These are the extremes to which thoughtless movies can be made when their purpose is solely to be profitable, much like watching T.V.

I wonder if the producers of

"Cuba" contacted the Cuban government and the Cuban Film Institute about producing this movie there. In Cuba, today, movies of international acclaim are being made. None of the things that appear in "Cuba" are really negative to the Cuban revolution today; so, why did they have to go to Spain? Just think of the great help the Cubans would have been in providing the real locales, real revolutionaries, and the real tone that the making of this picture demanded, since it portrayed a re-creation of a historical period of international significance even 20 years later.

Films usually are an indicator of the times. Following closely on the heels of the "Cuba" release and of "The Disappeared," the announced plans for a production called "Letelier," depicting his assassination have just become known. We hope that this future release will not suffer from the same objectiveless pitfalls to which "Cuba" was a victim. □

Juan Montenegro lived in Cuba during the time-period the movie "Cuba" takes place. He left the island in 1960.

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Social Blindness

By Robbie Ramsey

Are you such fools?
Don't you realize
You can't rehabilitate
 only dehumanize
With your cages of damnation
 and your cells of insanity
Constant solitude
 instead of society
In your factories of hatred
 you mold the products of
 men without emotions
You extract all love
You breed coldblooded killers
 out of the gentlest of men
Then dress *them* up and send *them* out
 to start all over again
Except now *they've* become embittered
 and hardened in your school
They'll remember how you treated *them*
 and pass it on to some poor fool
Oh excuse me, I mean some other member of
 your society
And when I say *they* or *them*
 who I really mean is *me*.



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About The Back Cover

"Uptown Kids" was taken by Eric Futran in 1974 as part of a photo essay project on the Uptown community while he was studying photography at Columbia College. A native of Chicago, Mr. Futran graduated from Columbia College in 1974 with a B.A. in photography. Now 31, Mr. Futran lives on Chicago's north side and does commercial free lance photography. His work includes several photo essays for the Reader on everything "from boxing clubs to kiddie discotheques."

Community Art Series



"Uptown Kids"

Photograph by Eric Futran, 1974